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Amir arrives in Africa; tax, investment pact signed in Paris

CONAKRY, Sept. 27. (Kuna): His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed arrived here from France this afternoon on the first leg of an African tour that also covers Mali and Niger.

The Amir was received upon arrival by President of Guinea Lansana Conte, senior officials, Kuwait's non-resident ambassador to Guinea, Arab and foreign diplomats.

The visit to Guinea by the Amir is in response to an invitation from President Conte and is aimed at enhancing bilateral relations between Kuwait and Guinea.

Kuwaiti-Guinean talks were scheduled to start this evening with a meeting between the Amir and President Conte.

The Amir holds another meeting tomorrow with President Conte, which will be preceded by a ministerial meeting between Kuwaiti Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saud Al Osaibi, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed, Finance Minister Jassem Al Khorafi and their Guinean counterparts.

Talks, Kuna learnt, will focus on boosting bilateral economic and cultural relations.

Kuwait has extended to Guinea, through the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, aid exceeding eight million dinars (about \$27 million) in support of development programmes.

The Amir will pay a visit to King Faisal Mosque in the capital Conakry, and a dinner banquet will be given in his honour by President Conte.

France and Kuwait signed this morning two separate agreements, one dealing with the double-taxation system and the other to mutually encourage and protect investments.

A communiqué released in Paris by the Economy and Finance Ministry indicated that the accords were signed by the Kuwaiti Minister of Finance, Jassem Al Khorafi, and the French junior minister in charge of the budget, Michel Charasse.

The first agreement, it said, is an additional clause to the taxes to be collected on French investments in Kuwait and Kuwaiti investments in France.

The second accord, it went on, gives a number of guarantees both to French and Kuwaiti investors so that they benefit from the same favourable conditions granted to local investors.

KHASHOGGI



Khashoggi (left) welcoming Jarrallah at his suite in Olympic Towers, New York.

The man - the moment

ADNAN Khashoggi, the financial magnate, and presently embroiled in judicial proceedings, gave an exclusive interview to Arab Times recently in New York.

Speaking to Ahmed Al Jarrallah, Editor-in-Chief of the Arab Times in his opulent rooftop quarters situated in the Olympic Towers skyscraper, Khashoggi, not one given to explaining or giving insights into his private life, said that in the past his annual income had been in the vicinity of \$80 million - from which he said that even though he did live a

luxurious life he never spent more than a quarter of his income. However, he said rumours of fortunes being squandered by him were rife, adding that: "The penny of Khashoggi rings loud - because I am Khashoggi."

Moving on to the scenario of his being arrested and lodged in a Swiss jail, "the modern-day entrepreneurial genius" said that it stemmed from allegations related to so-called financial improprieties committed by him. He said that he had come to New York in

a firm bid to clear his name and commented that he firmly believed that he would be acquitted due to the high-level of judicial acumen of the American courts. This was borne out, he said, when one realises the original charges against him have now been trimmed to only three. In his own words, he narrated his "first-hand" experience of what it is like for someone accustomed to indulging "every whim of the super-rich" to come face-to-face with the realities of a prison cell and prison life. See Page 9

26 die in copter crash

5 killed in US

KABUL, Sept. 27. (Agencies): An Afghan government Mi-8 helicopter troop carrier carrying civilians, including women and children, crashed and burned north of the capital on Monday.

Hospital sources in Kabul said today 26 people were killed in the crash, including soldiers.

The helicopter may have been carrying a West German television crew on its way to Kabul from the Bagram Air Force base, 50 km (30 miles) north of the capital, when it crashed, "because of technical reasons," government spokesman Mohammad Amani said.

At least 27 rockets hit near Kabul airport and around a government grain silo in the capital today in an upsurge of fighting against the Soviet-backed government.

Witnesses said 16 rockets landed around Kabul airport in the morning, temporarily disrupting flights.

In Tusayan, Arizona, a twin-engine plane with 19 people aboard crashed on landing at the Grand Canyon airport today killing five and seriously injuring 14, authorities said.

US Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman Ely Brekke said the plane hit trees, flipped over and crashed at 9:49 am (15:49 GMT) after veering on its landing approach.

Kidnap threat on children

NEW YORK, Sept. 27. (AP): Colombian drug lords have threatened to kidnap one of President George Bush's five children or senior American officials if the US and Colombian governments do not grant them amnesty, a newspaper reported today.

Unidentified intelligence sources told New York Newsday newspaper they believe Bush's 30-year-old daughter, Dorothy Leblond, is most vulnerable to an attack. The sources declined to elaborate, the newspaper said.

In addition to Leblond, a businesswoman in Portland, Maine, the Bushes have four children: George, John, Neil and Marvin.

Increased surveillance of the children had been reported previously but word of a possible kidnaping was new, the newspaper said.

Richard Abrams, a secret service spokesman, would neither confirm nor deny that protection for the Bush family was increased.

"Security is always tight, as you know," Abrams said.

Initially the Bush children had resisted extra security but all finally agreed to an increased secret service presence, the newspaper said.

Philippine police break up violent Quayle protest - Page 5

Aoun wing to join talks

BEIRUT, Sept. 27. (Agencies): A majority of Lebanon's Christian deputies will attend national reconciliation talks in Saudi Arabia on September 30, a member of Parliament said today.

"We agreed unanimously to attend the talks," said Elias Hraoui after a three-hour meeting between the deputies, comprising 21 Christians and two Muslims, and Christian Army Chief General Michel Aoun.

An Arab League peace plan which succeeded in halting six months of fighting between Christian troops and Syrian forces and their Muslim and leftist allies called on the 73 surviving deputies of Lebanon's Parliament to discuss political reforms at the root of the country's 14 years of war.

Forty of the deputies are Christians although several are pro-Syrian, living in Syrian-held West Beirut, or live abroad.

"We are going with a unified stand and the discussions will take place in Taif (Saudi Arabia)," deputy Pierre Daccache told reporters.

Christian political sources said Christian deputies will insist that a timetable be set for the pullout from Lebanon of Syria's 33,000 troops before any talk of reforms granting Muslims more say in the Christian-dominated political system.

Aoun said that he had been forced to accept the seven-point peace plan last Friday. Asked if it was doomed to failure, Aoun said: "It is blocked."

He said the plan was deadlocked after a statement by Syrian Vice-President Abdel Halim Khaddam that no Syrian troops would leave before political reforms.

Aoun was speaking to reporters before talks with the Lebanese Christian parliamentarians about the reconciliation meeting seen as crucial under the Arab League plan.

In Sanaa, the leaders of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and North Yemen ended a summit of their new economic bloc yesterday with a call for the withdrawal of all foreign forces and an end to foreign interference in Lebanon.

The low-profile political declaration gave Syria only a gentle nudge over its military presence there, avoiding singling out by name the 33,000 Syrian troops in the country.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was quoted today as saying Syria had no right to keep its forces in Lebanon.

A Lebanese daily said today that the Arab tripartite committee has acquired "a semi-pledge" from the United States to try to convince Israel to withdraw from the south of Lebanon.

No promises on oil accord

Kuwait voices reservations

GENEVA, Sept. 27. (Agencies): Opec ministers today struck a deal to boost their production ceiling a modest amount in the final months of the year, but two members indicated they would not go along.

Nigerian Oil Minister Rilwanu Lukman, President of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, said the countries would not lift their supply cap by a million barrels a day to 20.5 million barrels.

Algeria declared the move illegal and Kuwait, who has been openly exceeding its production limit, said it had made no commitments.

The head of the Algerian delegation, who demanded anonymity, said, "it is something that Algeria doesn't associate itself with."

"It is a decision that is illegal," he said immediately after the ministers' final round of talks at a luxury Geneva hotel.

"As far as we can see, it has kind of poor thinking behind it," he said.

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah said his country would continue not to recognise any restrictions on its output. He said Kuwait had made "no commitments either legal or moral to hold down production."

The disarray came in the fifth day of talks held to try to come up with an acceptable production strategy in the final quarter of the year.

The ministers were at odds throughout the meeting over how much they could raise any production ceiling without sending prices sliding.

Algerian Oil Minister Sadek Boussena, who left the meeting on Monday to return to Algiers for a legislative meeting, had pressed for retaining the current ceiling of 19.5 million barrels a day.

He had said the Opec should concentrate on bringing prices up about a dollar to the benchmark of \$18 a barrel.

Others argued the market was strong enough to absorb the additional supply.

The ministers failed to come up with a formula for meeting some countries' demands for a higher share of Opec's production.

"We solved a good deal," Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Al Chalabi said before the meeting. "Maybe we'll leave something for November."

The officials had spent the day studying a surprise Iranian proposal to see if it could form the basis of a compromise. But they deferred taking any action on the plan.

In its plan, Iran proposed the production ceiling be pegged above 20.5 million barrels a day to take care of demands by Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Gabon, Ecuador and Qatar.

TUNISIA, Sept. 27. (Reuters): Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali sacked his first prime minister today after a cabinet row over the pace of economic reform and appointed Justice Minister Hamed Karoui in his place.

Karoui, a 61-year-old ruling party stalwart, said in his first statement after the dismissal of prime minister Hedi Baccouche that the President had asked him to tackle unemployment and the social costs of change.

Government sources said Ben Ali thought that the political and economic reform process he began on taking office two years ago had started to falter under the guidance of Baccouche.

"It's a breath of fresh air. Tunisia needs new momentum across the board, especially in the economy and in the process of democratisation," an official source told reporters.

Baccouche had been prime minister since November 1987, when Ben Ali removed Tunisia's first President, Habib Bourguiba, from power on grounds of senility.

Under the Tunisian constitution, a cabinet reshuffle need not

Tunisia sacks PM after row

Karoui replaces Baccouche

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Under the Tunisian constitution, a cabinet reshuffle need not



Karoui... new premier

'Kuwait told' Surprising revelation

KUWAIT, Sept. 27. (Kuna): An official Interior Ministry source yesterday said "we are surprised over attributing the statement published by London-based Al-Majala magazine to Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef Bin Abdul Aziz."

The source added that "it is difficult to comment on the statement until its attribution to the prince was ascertained."

The source was responding to a Kuna query on a statement published in the local press and carried by news agencies quoting Prince Nayef as telling Arabic language magazine Al Majala that Riyadh kept Kuwait informed on files of the cases of the Kuwaitis who were tried for taking part in the explosions in Makkah, Saudi Arabia.

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INTERNATIONAL

Gene defects in lung cancer could aid diagnosis

NEW YORK, Sept. 27 (AP) — Researchers have identified abnormalities in an anti-cancer gene linked to lung cancer, raising the possibility of early diagnosis and better treatment for the 150,000 people who get lung cancer each year.

During the last several years, researchers have found indirect evidence that defects in at least six genes can contribute to the formation of lung cancer.

A new study has pinpointed precise chemical changes that should be useful for identifying people at high risk of getting lung cancer, or for predicting how deadly a particular case of lung cancer will be.

The findings were reported by Dr. John Minna of the National Cancer Institute-Navy Medical Oncology Branch in Bethesda, Maryland.

"One thing you could do would be to take people's tumours, see how many (genetic) lesions they have, and determine how virulent they are," Minna said yesterday in a telephone interview from Toronto, where he presented his findings at the Bristol-Myers cancer research symposium.

The identification of the genetic lesions could lead to better decisions of treatment, he said.

Minna also said screening for genetic abnormalities in people who don't have lung cancer could reveal those who are about to get cancer — that is, people who have some, but not all, of the genetic changes needed to produce a tumour. Such people could be followed closely for the appearance of tumours, he said.

Minna said there may be as many as 10 or 20 genetic abnormalities that can act together to convert normal lung tissue into tumours.

Most of the evidence of the six abnormalities already found consists of studies with genetic "signposts" called

restriction fragment length polymorphisms, or RFLPs. These studies show the approximate location of the abnormalities on chromosomes, but do not reveal precisely what the abnormalities are.

Minna's latest findings are a catalogue of abnormalities found in a gene called P53 on chromosome 17, based on the examination of a large number of cancer tumours.

The P53 gene also has been found to be important in colon cancer, an uncommon bone cancer called osteosarcoma and in chronic myelogenous leukemia, Minna said.

Seeing with Lankan eyes

25,000 benefitted so far

COLOMBO, Sept. 27, (Reuters) — Horikoshi Masao, a 60-year-old technician in a Japanese automobile factory, is one of 25,000 people in different parts of the world whose sight has been restored by corneal grafting from eyes donated in Sri Lanka.

Masao, a grandfather, came to the Indian Ocean island to join in celebrations organised by the Sri Lanka eye donation society marking the donation of the 25,000th eye.

The society's president, eye surgeon Dr. Hudson Silva, said Sri Lanka was the only country in the world which sends corneas to other nations to cure blindness.

Silva, who started the scheme, said the eyes were given to 57 countries over the past 25 years.

Donations

"Our eyes have gone to so many countries to illuminate the world," said Silva.

The eye donation society has a list of more than 550,000 people, mostly Buddhists, who have signed forms offering their corneas for grafting after death.

Among them are Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa, cabinet ministers and other leading politicians.

"The response was dramatic. Some were even prepared to give one eye while they were still alive," said Silva.

Premadasa, who was the chief guest at celebrations to mark the event, said that at Silva's request he had carried eyes to several countries on his official tours as prime minister before he became president early this year.

"I have taken eyes to various countries and I know how much the people in those countries appreciate it," he said.

Masao's defective eyes were repaired with the corneas of a 65-year-old Sri Lankan woman named Aslin Nona three days after she died.

During his visit to the island, Masao drove to Aslin Nona's home at Heriyantuduwe in the suburbs of Colombo to see her family.

Pictures

"I am very happy to see you, I have always wanted to see all of you with these eyes," he told Aslin Nona's children and grandchildren.

Her granddaughter, Karunaseeli, 23, showed Masao pictures of Aslin Nona in the family album. "I am very happy to see her," he said.

"This is like as if our grandmother has returned home," said Tilakaratne, one of Aslin Nona's grandsons.

The eye donation society started donating eyes to local hospitals for grafting in 1961.

"Before we started this scheme, the eyes were obtained from people sent to the gallows. But, when in 1956 the government stopped executions, the flow of eyes to the hospitals dried up," he said.

Three years after the society started collecting corneas from donors who bequeathed their eyes there was an excess of eyes over the number required by the local hospitals, he said.

Full moon

"We then started donating the excess eyes to foreign countries. The first batch of six eyes was sent to Singapore on the full moon day of the month of May, 1964," Silva said.

He said giving the eyes of full moon day was significant because the day is sacred to Buddhists, who form 70 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people.

"Buddhists believe that the donation of eyes is a meritorious deed," he said.

The eyes have been sent to countries as far away as Brazil in the west and Japan in the east.

Medical File

Test tube fertilisations: Dutch researchers believe they have found a way to more than double the success rate for in-vitro fertilisation by giving women hormones intravenously using a new technique.

The technique consists of introducing hormones at short intervals over 14 days, before the eggs are removed for fertilisation, Frederika Prak said on Tuesday.

Prak has been researching in-vitro fertilisation with a team based in the southern Dutch city of Tilburg.

"We believe the technique could increase the chances of successful fertilisation by between two and three times," she said.

In-vitro fertilisation procedure has until now been to inject the ovary-stimulating hormones once a day over a 14-day period.

The new method administers them in pulses every 90 minutes through a tube in the arm connected to a small pump worn around the waist, Prak said.

In a pilot study involving 40 patients, around half became pregnant. The technique is to be examined more closely in a joint project with the University of Nijmegen. (Reuters)

Paediatrics programme: A new paediatrics residency programme is teaching US doctors how to treat diseases common in the Third World, where 87 per cent of the all children are born.

"It seems so blatant and absurd to me that children are dying of measles and diarrhoea in other parts of the world. I just want to balance things out a little," said Dr Paula Brinkley, who is in the programme.

"Mothers in underdeveloped countries cry when their children die just like they do here," she said.

Case Western Reserve University two months ago started a Paediatrics and International Child Health Residency Programme at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio.

Dr Jeffrey Goldhagen, director of the programme, said that to his knowledge, it is the only programme of its kind. He said that the Third World has only about 5 per cent of the world's paediatricians.

Ms Brinkley lived in Bolivia two years ago as a community health care worker, which gave her an idea of diseases peculiar to some far-flung areas, and an inkling of the cultural and geographical differences that must be considered when treating those people.

But many doctors and nurses who work with people in Southeast Asia, Afghanistan and Latin America don't have those insights, said Goldhagen. (AP)

Drug for Aids: A common non-toxic drug can block the growth of the lethal Aids virus in test-tube experiments, increasing the prospects of slowing the disease inside the human body, researchers said on Tuesday.

Preliminary tests of the drug, N-acetylcysteine or NAC, which is used for treating chronic bronchitis and other obstructions of the lung, presents a new approach for improving Aids therapy, Stanford University scientists said.

"NAC is not a cure for Aids," said Dr Leonard Herzenberg, professor of genetics at the Stanford University School of Medicine.



Horikoshi Masao, Japanese, looks at the picture of Aslin Nona, Sri Lankan, who donated him her eyes. (Reuters wirephoto)

Cholesterol role exaggerated

No need to get alarmed, say doctors

NEW YORK, Sept. 27, (Reuters) — After years of doctors telling people to avoid red meat, milk and eggs, a panel of medical experts says cholesterol's role in heart disease has been exaggerated and is worrying the public unnecessarily.

"There is no need to alarm the entire population about cholesterol," said Dr. Elizabeth Whelan, president of the American Council on Science and Health, a non-profit group that issued a report yesterday saying the public had been misled about cholesterol.

Whelan and a panel of leading medical experts, including pioneering heart surgeon Michael DeBakey, stressed that cholesterol is only one of several risk factors that contribute to heart disease. Based on medical studies, they said, cholesterol is the weakest of all risk factors.

The experts said they wanted to "restore balance"

because the role of diet on cholesterol is more complex than is generally believed.

DeBakey argued that "nobody knows the specific, precise agent that causes heart disease," and he warned that "cholesterol tests are notoriously inaccurate" and heart disease can occur in many patients without any risk factors.

The panel said that avoiding smoking, lowering blood pressure and reducing total calories with nutritionally balanced diet with a variety of foods were the best ways to reduce the risk of heart disease.

The doctors said that the extreme focus on cholesterol has obscured and diminished the importance of smoking and high pressure as risk factors for heart disease.

Detecting colon cancer

TORONTO, Sept. 27, (UPI) — Scientists have developed a test to identify individuals who are most likely to develop a rare, inherited form of cancer of the colon and rectum, it was announced yesterday.

The test may eventually lead to ways to identify potential victims of more common forms of the cancer, allowing earlier detection and treatment, said Walter Bodmer, director of research of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund in London.

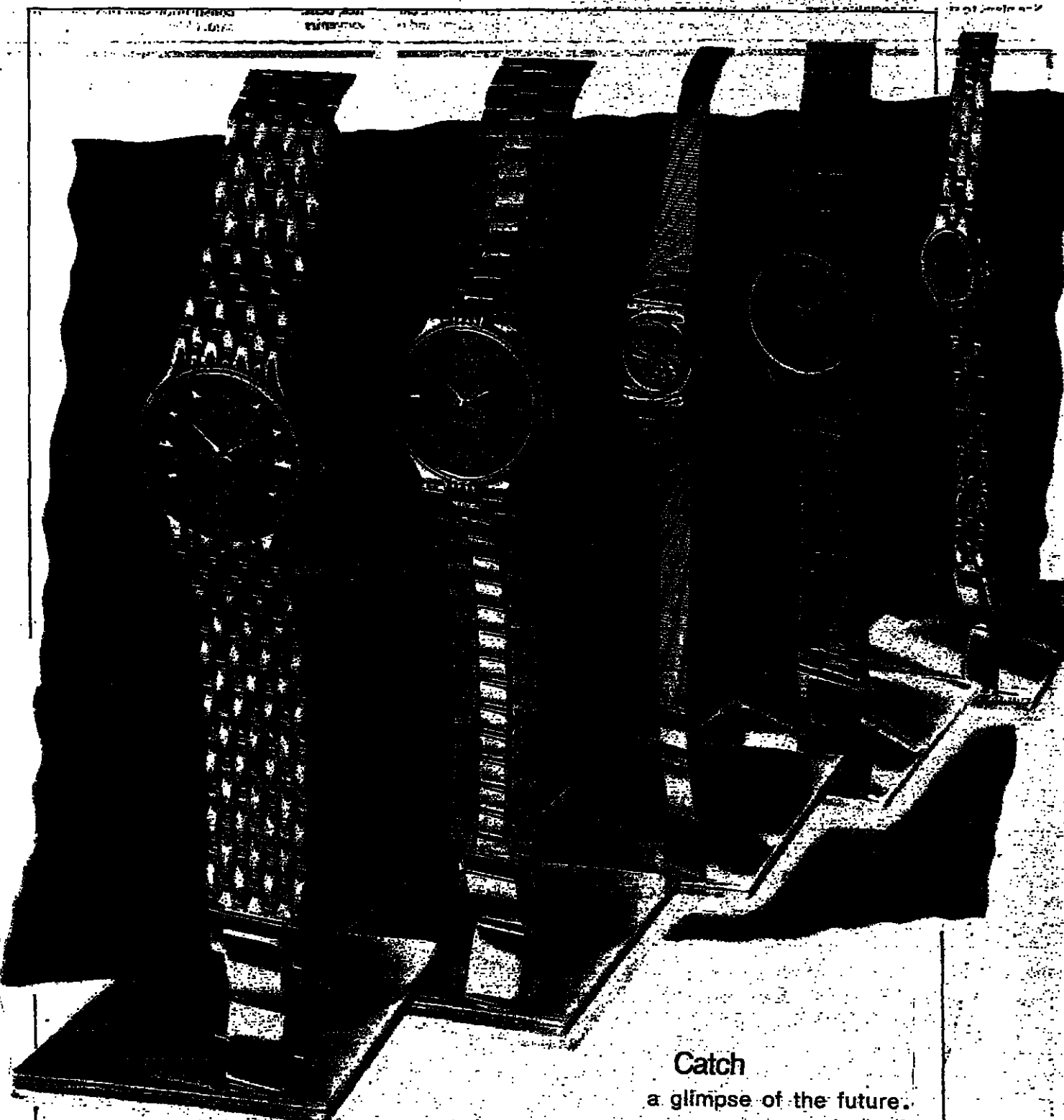
A new blood test has been developed that can predict, with 95 per cent accuracy, which people have an inherited condition called familial polyposis, he said.

"The prediction, possible before any symptoms are apparent, is made by tracking a family gene," Bodmer said during a cancer research symposium. "Family members with normal genes can be reassured and the affected members counselled and offered preventative surgery."

Inherited familial polyposis accounts for about 5 per cent of colorectal cancers, a disease which annually kills about 5,900 Canadians, 60,000 people in the United States and 20,000 in Britain, Bodmer said.

The test may lead to similar tests to identify people with non-inherited genetic predisposition to the disease, Bodmer said. At least 20 per cent of non-inherited colorectal cancers have genetic damage in the same area as those with the inherited form, Bodmer said.

"The object of the test would be to identify early changes so that the cancer could be treated at a stage when there is an 80 per cent cure rate," Bodmer said.



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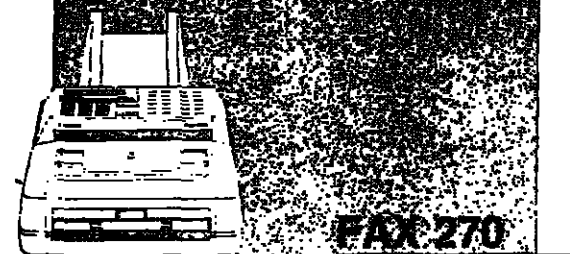
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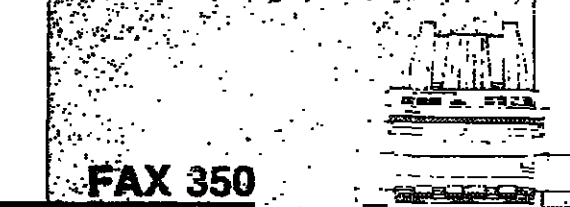
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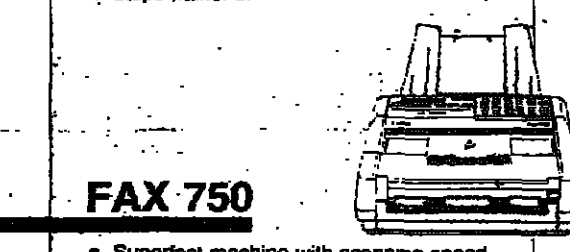
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WASHINGTON, Pennsylvania: Magazine publisher Malcolm Forbes is well known for his hot-air balloons and extravagant, expensive parties, but he also can be happy eating meatballs after a ride with fellow motorcyclists.

Forbes, 70, riding a brown-and-red Harley-Davidson, joined about 1,000 motorcyclists for the 52-mile (84-kilometre) fall Poker run through the countryside.

"Oh, it was neat (fun)," Forbes said. "It was just a relaxed pleasure ride."

Forbes rode with a 17-member entourage of employees and friends, nicknamed the Capitalist Tools, who flew to Pittsburgh aboard Forbes' private jet.

Elsie Gallagher, who works for Forbes, said the publisher has been using the jet for Sunday "air strikes" to motorcycle events across the country.

LONDON: Models and memorabilia belonging to Olympic hero Harold Abrahams, whose story was told in the film "Chariots of Fire," will be sold at auction Nov. 21.

The gold medal Abrahams won for the 100-metre race in the 1924 Paris Olympics will not be among the items sold, as it was stolen from his home some 50 years after his victory.

Christie's auctioneers said that heirs of Abrahams, who died in 1978, had put up for sale some of 30 medals, the stopwatches he used during training and his CBE, the commander of the British Empire Award bestowed by Queen Elizabeth in 1957.

Several menus are among a quantity of documents being sold, including one for a dinner held in honour of the Olympic athlete at the House of Commons in 1924. It is covered with signatures of athletes including Abrahams and Eric Liddell, the Scottish runner who refused to compete on Sundays and was featured in the 1981 film.

Also for sale will be a leather from the service of the shipwrecking for Abrahams in 1978 at the Church of St. Bride in Fleet Street. (AP)

HOUSTON: The Duchess of York will pay Houston in November to celebrate the 400th anniversary of opera in Great Britain with the *Houston Grand Opera*.

The duchess, popularly known as "Fergie," will arrive Nov. 3 for four days of appearances, including the Houston grand opera's British opera festival, as well as possible outings to a drug awareness programme and a high school arts centre.

The duchess, who will be about five months pregnant at the time of the visit, will not be joined by her husband, Prince Andrew, or their daughter, Beatrice, organizers said. She plans to stay with socialite Lynn Wyatt. (AP)



McCartney sings at the concert in Oslo. (Reuters wirephoto)

Ex-Beatle delights Oslo fans McCartney begins tour

DRAMMEN, Norway, Sept. 27, (Reuters): British rock star Paul McCartney started his first world tour for 13 years yesterday dusting off Beatles classics in a concert near Oslo.

Relaxed and joking, McCartney and his five-strong backing band — which included his wife Linda on keyboards — played for more than two hours in the town of Drammen, west of Oslo.

The 6,000 sell-out crowd, from teenagers to people old enough to remember the Beatles' first hits in the early 1960s, sang along at every opportunity.

"This is one we wrote in the car on the way here," McCartney said as he played the opening chords to the Beatles' *Get to Get You into My Life*.

Of 27 songs, 13 were from his career since the Beatles broke up in 1970 and several were from his new album, *Flowers in the Dirt*.

The rest were tunes that have become pop classics and helped make McCartney a superstar, such as *Back in the USSR*, *Hey Jude*, *Get Back*, *Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*, *Yesterday*, *Elephant Rhyth* and *Let It Be*.

McCartney played some of them with his band Wings in the 1970s but others had never been heard on stage before. The Beatles gave up live performances in 1966.

Dressed in a casual grey suit and open-necked white shirt, McCartney, 47, switched from the bass to keyboards and guitar.

McCartney, a convert to the 'Green' cause, has invited environmentalists movement Friends of the Earth to join the tour to help raise awareness of ecological issues.

"We have an opportunity to save the planet. Let's do it tonight," he told his audience.

The tour moves on to Gothenburg and Stockholm in Sweden and from there to West Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Britain.

Ms Woodhull was the candidate of the Equal Rights Party in 1972, receiving only a few thousand votes. One of her election opponents was then President Ulysses S. Grant, who was re-elected.

"Victoria was a person who believed that blacks and women were people, just like the constitution said they were," Berg said. (AP)

HOMER, Ohio: Several hundred people turned out for "Victoria Day," honouring the first woman to run for US president, nearly 50 years before women won the right to vote in America.

Victoria Claflin Woodhull, born Sept. 23, 1938, also reportedly was the first woman stockbroker on Wall Street and the first woman to speak before Congress, said

organisers of Saturday's event.

"Most people do not even know who she is, but she was an example of courage and leadership," said Joseph Berg, president of the Homer Historical Society.

Several hundred people gathered at the local library to trade stories about Ms Woodhull and buy and sell T-shirts, caps, plates, bells, postcards and other souvenirs.

Plants: cure for indoor air pollution

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27, (UPI): Common household plants may provide an antidote to "sick building syndrome" — high levels of indoor air pollution — and could be a vital life support system for people in space, NASA scientists said yesterday.

In a two-year study partially funded by landscaping industry groups, National Aeronautics and Space Administration scientists found that common house and office plants such as philodendron, spider plants and golden pothos can help filter out harmful air pollutants.

In particular, the scientists said plants can reduce indoor air pollution significantly if activated carbon filters are placed in potting soil. The filters absorb pollutants, which then are utilised as a food source by plant roots.

"Low-light-requiring, houseplants, along with activated carbon plant filters, have demonstrated the potential for improving indoor air quality by removing trace organic pollutants from the air," said the report by B.C. Wolverton, a senior researcher at NASA's John C. Stennis space centre in Bay St Louis, Miss.

"This plant system is one of the most promising means of alleviating the sick building syndrome associated with many new, energy-efficient buildings," the report said.

According to the study, even greater pollution reduction was achieved when a small fan was used in combination with carbon filters to speed the flow of air past the plant's roots, which appear to play the biggest role in filtering out contaminants. The fan is put near the plant to increase overall air flow.

In addition to providing a possible solution for sick building syndrome, the scientists said air-cleaning systems using plants, carbon filters and fans could be a vital life support system for NASA's planned space station or other space missions where humans live in sealed capsules for a long time.

The research tested the ability of 12 different plants to reduce levels of three toxic chemicals commonly found in buildings — benzene, formaldehyde and trichloroethylene. All the plants, to varying degrees, reduced pollution levels in sealed chambers injected with known amounts of each chemical.

However, the scientists acknowledged they were not able to pinpoint the biological mechanism by which plants reduced pollutant levels. Furthermore, they said some tests indicated potting soil alone was more effective in reducing pollution than pots with plants in them.

Still, when leaves were removed from the base of plants — improving air flow to soil and roots — plants proved more effective than potting soil alone.



A contract was signed between the Unisys Computer Division of Messrs Mohamed Abdul Rahman Al-Bahar and Messrs Automated Multi-Access System Co. K.S.C.

For the supply and installation of a UNISYS U6000 Computer System.

The Contract was signed by Mr. Odman A. Al-Dhahbi, General Manager, in the presence of Mr. Kanan Sadek, Technical Manager, Automated Multi-Access Systems Co. and Mr. Mohamed A. Kanan, General Manager, in the presence of Mr. Adnan Abdul Jawad, Sales Manager, UNISYS Computer Division of Mohamed Abdulrahman Al-Bahar.

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World Roundup

Europe

Soares' son hurt: The son of Portuguese President Mario Soares was seriously injured in a plane crash in rebel-held southern Angola on Tuesday and has been hospitalised in Pretoria, South Africa's Foreign Minister said on Wednesday.

Four other people aboard the twin-engine plane, including two Portuguese members of parliament, a West German and the pilot, also have been hospitalised in the capital, the announcement said.

João Soares, himself a Socialist member of the Portuguese Parliament, and the others crashed shortly after takeoff on Tuesday evening from the headquarters of Jonas Savimbi's US-backed Unita guerrillas where they had attended a Unita congress.

South African Foreign Minister R. F. "Pik" Botha said in a statement an aircraft chartered by Unita airlifted the five men from the Jamba bush base to Pretoria early Wednesday, following consultations between Pretoria and Lisbon.

According to the Portuguese news agency Lusa, Soares suffered cranial trauma, fractured limbs and a fractured jaw. Botha said Soares was in "serious condition" and that the President's wife, Olympia, was flying to South Africa. (AP)

£400 a year on alcohol: Every Briton aged 15 or over spends more than £400 a year on alcohol, a total of £18.7 billion in 1988, it was disclosed in London on Wednesday.

This is more than the total for motor vehicles (£18.1 billion), clothes (£16.5 billion) or household goods (£12.7 billion), according to the report from the Economist intelligence unit. Meanwhile, the specialised publication, which is part of the Economist magazine, said that spirits merchants have nearly tripled their total UK business. (Kuna)

Affected by divorce: Children whose parents are being divorced are more likely to be aggressive at school and may start to develop peculiar habits, it was reported in London on Wednesday.

About 2,800 children a week are affected by divorce in the UK, said the National Marriage Guidance Council in its annual report.

While parents argue over money and custody, their children's suffering is frequently ignored, it added.

"The children suffer a lot of pain and damage. Their lives are never the same again. They suddenly have to change from living with both parents to living with one," the study, which was given prominence by the British media, pointed out. (Kuna)

Wait three years: Foreigners who marry Swiss nationals are no longer entitled to the Swiss citizenship immediately — such entitlement occurs only after three years of marriage and five years of residence in the country, a Swiss daily reported.

For partners of Swiss nationals not residing in Switzerland, the law stipulates entitlement after five years of marriage.

The Tribune de Genève, reporting on the decision of the national council, said that the decision was taken by 76 votes to four.

For ordinary naturalisations the regular criteria still applies: A foreigner can apply for the Swiss nationality only after 12 years of residence in Switzerland, except those who entered the country between the age of 10 and 20 — in which case each year counts as two. (Kuna)

10 die in IRA bombing: All 10 military policemen killed in an Irish Republican Army bombing at the Royal Marines School of Music died from blast injuries, a pathologist said Tuesday.

Seven of the men were changing into their uniforms in a recreation centre and two others were in an adjoining workshop when the bomb exploded on Friday at the barracks in the south-east England town of Deal, said East Kent coroner Richard Sturt. (AP)

Leak scandal hits security: Northern Ireland's security forces were hit by another intelligence leak scandal on Wednesday when a former British soldier sent a newspaper details of 50 Irish Republican Army (IRA) suspects.

"I was a serving soldier in Northern Ireland. I just thought I would let you see how easy it is to obtain these photographs. I only kept them as a souvenir," he told the Daily Record newspaper in an anonymous note sent with the list.

The names of more than 200 IRA suspects may now have been leaked by rogue British soldiers and policemen to Protestant killer gangs in a widening security scandal that has angered the Irish government and embarrassed Britain. (Reuters)

Papal primacy row: Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie began his first official visit to the Vatican on Friday already embroiled in a row at home over his support for papal authority in a reunified church.

Runcie, spiritual head of the world's 70 million Anglicans, is expected to discuss unity with the Roman Catholic church during talks with Pope John Paul II during his four-day visit.

He provoked controversy by saying conservative churchmen earlier this month when he said church members were beginning to accept the idea of the "universal primacy" of the Pope.

Aides were quick to point out that Runcie was not suggesting the Pope should have direct control over the Church of England, and some church leaders said there was some support for the archbishop's proposals. (Reuters)

Action against drugs: Representatives of the United States, Italy and Spain, meeting in Rome to co-ordinate action against drug production and trafficking, have agreed on a programme of assistance to Peru, Colombia and Bolivia, Interior Minister Antonio Cava announced Wednesday.

Gava told a news conference the planned assistance to the three major drug-producing countries will consist mainly in training security personnel in the protection of magistrates and witnesses from attack by gangs trafficking in heroin and cocaine.

The plan also calls for a more rapid exchange of information between governments and organisations involved in the growing international campaign to curb drug production and trafficking. (UPI)

Crackdown on drug dealers: West German police on Tuesday announced the seizure of 330 kg (770 pounds) of cocaine and the arrests of six people in three countries in a crackdown on Colombian drug dealers.

Four Colombians and two West Germans were rounded up just west of the southern West German city of Stuttgart and in Britain and Germany in co-ordinated police raids, the federal criminal office (BKA) said.

Interior Minister Wolfgang Schäuble praised the crackdown, which followed the seizure in West Germany of 650 kg (1,430 pounds) of cocaine from Colombia and the arrest of the 14-man crew of a Panamanian freighter on August 22. (Reuters)

Cut-free surgery
Mini-machine
to sew tissues

LONDON, Sept. 27, (Reuters): British scientists have developed a miniature sewing machine that can be swallowed by patients and manipulated from the outside to stitch tissue together internally without surgery.

Dr Paul Swain of the London Hospital, who helped develop the instrument with scientists from University College Hospital, said today it would allow doctors to perform operations "from inside out" and lead to safer abdominal surgery.

The machine — only as big as a little finger — is mounted on a flexible tube which enters the stomach via the gullet and allows surgeons to see inside the body.

The patient is given a local anaesthetic to minimise throat discomfort as the device is swallowed but remains conscious throughout the operation.

The device, which can be used to treat bleeding ulcers, works by remote control to suck tissue into a groove and then sew it together with staples or nylon stitches.

It can also be used to attach a drug capsule inside the body when treating some types of cancer when there is a need to administer localised treatment.

Use of the new instrument is being considered by medical ethical committees and Swain said he expected to be treating the first patients in the new year.



Papa is angry

Former Greek prime minister Andreas Papandreu, the first Greek civilian leader ordered to stand trial for wrongdoing in office, is almost certain to face charges of involvement in a bank embezzlement scandal.

The Greek Parliament, which has already ordered Papandreu, 70, to stand trial on charges of widespread telephone bugging during his eight-year socialist rule, will vote on whether to charge him in connection with the bank scandal.

Papandreu vehemently denied the charges (above) and said the New Democracy Party was trying to destroy him. (Reuters wirephoto)

Death-camp experiences: Doctors studying the psychological problems of kidnap victims say they have drawn on the experiences of survivors of the Vietnam war and Nazi death camps to understand what hostages go through.

"Worldwide research into extermination camp survivors has provided an extremely interesting source of psychological and medical information," psychologist Marcello Cella Bianchi told Wednesday's Corriere Della Sera newspaper.

Although Italy tops the kidnapping league with at least 650 abductions since the early 1970s, doctors say no one has looked into the best way of dealing with the mental and physical after-effects on victims and their families. (Reuters)

Veterans honoured: Veterans of the Berlin airlift on Tuesday honoured the crews who daily flew thousands of tons of supplies to break a Soviet blockade of Germany's former capital in the late 1940s. Among the 350 people attending the ceremony were former US Navy, Army and Air Force teams who ferried food to West Berliners during the 462-day Soviet blockade that began on June 26, 1948. (AP)

Academic life in US: One in four American high school students drop out and an estimated 13 per cent of adults cannot read. Generally, too, pupils in other industrialised nations do far better than US children in math and science.

Since 1980, US spending on public education, adjusted for inflation, has risen 29 per cent. Yet there has been little if any improvement in achievement. (UPI)

Watergate tapes set for release: Forty-eight hours of tapes secretly recorded by former US President Richard Nixon will be released in April unless Nixon or others involved in the recordings object, officials said yesterday.

The new tapes are among more than 4,000 hours of recordings made on a secret White House monitoring system between 1971 and 1973, at a time when abuses of power were being committed that led to Nixon's political downfall and the jailing of many of his aides. (Reuters)

Premier denies: Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew denied on Wednesday ever threatening the Catholic church and said he was suing the Far Eastern Economic Review, saying its account was "provocative and biased."

Under cross-examination by defence counsel Geoffrey Robertson, Lee told the high court he would not have filed a libel suit if the article had been based on "fair comment."

During his second day of testimony, Lee denied Robertson's contention that the government had threatened to withdraw the printing licence for the Catholic News, expelled priests and interfere with worship by discouraging masses for those incarcerated in the government's detention centre.

"These threats amounted to giving the church an ultimatum to comply with the government," Robertson said.

Police officer held in theft: A police officer responsible for impounded drugs was charged on Wednesday with stealing 20 million (Australian) dollars (\$16 million) worth of heroin, cannabis and cocaine from the Central Police Drug Registry.

Police alleged in Sydney's central local court that Michael Wallace, 36, siphoned off drugs that had been seized in police raids and then tried to resell them on the black market.

Wallace, who worked at the Federal Drug Registry, was arrested in early morning raids on his home and those of his parents and brother. (AP)

**Reagan a disaster
Bush praised**

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 27, (AP): Former US president Jimmy Carter has kind words for President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker. "For repairing the damage" he said was caused by the presidency of Ronald Reagan.

The Reagan administration was "a catastrophe in foreign policy and domestic policy, and in relation to ethics and moral standards," Carter said in an interview on Monday with the San Francisco Examiner.

Carter raked his successor's policies on Central America and the Middle East, and blamed Reagan for "tripling the national debt in just three years" at a time when "the (savings and loans) went down the drain. And we've got about 15 times more cocaine and crack in the country than we had nine years ago."

Supports Bakker: A 74-year-old woman who bought 32 of the \$1,000 lifetime partnerships at PTL said yesterday at PTL Jim Bakker's trial that she would gladly give the money to the ministry again.

"I was given the greatest thrill I ever had by giving that money," Marjorie Grey of Richlands said outside the courtroom.

"That money means nothing to me, and I'm not a rich person," Ms Grey said, adding that she also made a \$12,000 down payment on a condominium that was never built at PTL's Heritage US retreat and theme park complex. (AP)

Gabor leaves courtroom: Zsa Zsa Gabor angrily left the courtroom during testimony by two prosecution witnesses, accusing them of lying about the incident in which she slapped a policeman, and calling me "a little punk."

Gabor flirted with the judge's gag order yesterday when she told a gang of reporters and paparazzi outside court that "both these people lie about me. I hate it when people lie about me." At another point she exclaimed, "I can't listen to any more lies. I can't go through it again." (UPI)

Reckless driver: Motorists got so fed up with a reckless driver that they took matters into their own hands, boxing in his truck and forcing him off the road, state police said.

A tractor-trailer rig was weaving in and out of traffic Monday on the Adirondack Northway near the town of Chazy, tailgating and nearly running some cars off the road, said trooper Kevin Triller.

After several miles (kilometres) of terror, five motorists — all strangers — pulled over, discussed the situation and decided to act, Triller said.

One went to summon police while the other four sped northward and caught up with the truck just south of the Canadian border. (AP)

Hugo aftermath: Nine days after hurricane Hugo slammed into Puerto Rico, thousands of people remained without running water and health officials were concerned about the spread of disease.

In a school shelter in the town of Yabucoa in eastern Puerto Rico, health officials said a boy died Monday of meningitis and 40 injuries were reported in the same school were treated yesterday with antibiotics to ward off the contagious disease. (AP)

Genovese chief convicted: The third-ranking leader of the Genovese organised crime family was sentenced yesterday to 80 years in prison for ordering the death of a mob-connected businessman and plotting unsuccessfully to kill the powerful head of a rival Mafia family.

Louis "Bobby" Manna, 60, identified by authorities as the Genovese family "consigliere" and chief of the crime clan's New Jersey faction, will not be eligible for release for more than 60 years. (UPI)

B-2 tests cut short: Two B-2 stealth bomber test flights were cut short last week, once because of a renewed oil-pressure problem and once because of high winds, the Defence Department said yesterday.

A planned 5 1/2-hour flight Sept. 21 was scrubbed after three hours after indications of low oil pressure in the plane's No. 1 airframe accessory drive, said Defence Department spokesman Pete Williams.

The bat-wing bomber is designed to pass through enemy radar virtually undetected. The accessory drive is the gear box that powers the jet's generators and controls. (AP)

Senate votes to shut down: The US Senate voted overwhelmingly yesterday to back a federal commission's decision to shut down 86 military bases and scale down five more as lawmakers weighed a \$288.2 billion military spending bill. (AP)



Land demanded

Taiwan aborigines demanding the return of traditional tribal lands fought hand to hand with police (above) yesterday in front of the island's Parliament building.

Witnesses said the scuffle broke out when aborigines tried to force their way into the building to meet the speaker of Parliament.

An aborigine was laid away with a gaping head wound. No other injuries were reported. The tense situation was defused when Liu Kuo-Tai, Speaker of Parliament, emerged from the legislature to meet the demonstrators.

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Whales swim on a wall

American painter Wyland pokes his head out from a window in the centre of his whale wall-painting which he has completed on a 30-metre, high apartment building in Nice on the French Riviera. (Reuters wirephoto)

Fighting in detention centre: Vietnamese boat people armed with stones and iron bars fought at a detention centre early Wednesday. The government said 23 people were injured and 22 arrested.

Outbreaks of fighting between boat people have increased in recent months as overcrowded camps fill with Vietnamese awaiting word on whether they will be granted asylum or repatriated to the communist homeland they fled by boat. (AP)

Nuclear verification: Japan on Tuesday volunteered to create an international verification network for a nuclear test ban and proposed similar procedures for a ban on chemical weapons.

In an address to the General Assembly, Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said Japan's technical expertise could be put to good use in disarmament verification procedures.

"Pooling all of its technical capabilities, Japan is taking the initiative in the establishment of an international test verification network for the nuclear test ban," he said. (Reuters)

Zola stays away: South African-born athlete Zola Budd sent a wreath but obeyed the wishes of her murdered father Frank and did not join 200 mourners at his funeral on Wednesday.

Frank Budd, 56, who was shot dead last week in his farm house near the Orange Free State town of Bloemfontein, said in his will that he did not want Zola and her two sisters at his graveside.

However the sisters, Estelle Budd and Cara Van Der Westhuizen, were among the mourners.

Zola Budd was trained by her father in the early days of her spectacular career, but he became estranged from the rest of the family when she took British citizenship to evade anti-apartheid boycotts and take part in the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

A 24-year-old man has been charged with murdering Budd, whose body was found in the remote farmhouse where he lived. (Reuters)

Queen honours Helen Suzman: Queen Elizabeth II will award South Africa's veteran liberal politician Helen Suzman with one of Britain's highest awards for her lone parliamentary campaign against apartheid discrimination.

Citing Suzman's "distinguished contribution" against apartheid and fostering relations with Britain, the Foreign Office said the Queen would appoint her a Dame Commander of British Empire at a special ceremony in London Oct. 31.

Ms Suzman has championed the cause of human rights for all the people of South Africa for more than 40 years," the Foreign Office said in a statement. "Since her election to Parliament in December 1952, she has been a staunch opponent of the policy of apartheid."

In New York, British Foreign Secretary John Major, also honoured Suzman in a speech to the United Nations General Assembly. (UPI)

Peaceful protest marches: Thousands of demonstrators marched on police headquarters in this eastern Cape province town on Wednesday in one of the biggest protests so far in a two-month anti-apartheid campaign.

A heavy contingent of police watched the march, organised by the Mass Democratic Movement (MDM) anti-apartheid coalition, as it filed through the town centre. There were no incidents.

Reporters said that up to 40,000 people took part although police estimates put the number at 25,000.

Anglican Bishop David Russell of Grahamstown handed in a petition at the police station calling for the release of two activists who are being detained without trial under the terms of South Africa's three-year-old state of emergency. (Reuters)

Race segregation ends: Johannesburg's City Council has voted to end all race segregation in buses, swimming pools and other urban facilities, officials said on Wednesday.

The management committee of the country's biggest city, dominated by the ruling white National Party, decided on Tuesday night to open recreational facilities immediately to black people, deputy chairman Marietta Marx said.

City bus services restricted on most routes to whites, coloured (mixed race) and Indian people, will admit blacks as soon as formal permission is granted by the city transportation board. (Reuters)

Disappearance reports denied: A controversial coloured (mixed race) South African policeman who is being investigated by his superior after accusing his colleagues of brutality denied reports on Tuesday that he had gone into hiding.

A police spokesman said Lieutenant Gregory Rockman had not turned up for an interview

Pensioner rebuked
Bob Hawke
apologises

SYDNEY, Sept. 27, (Reuters): Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke apologised today to an old-age pensioner for calling him a "silly old bugger."

Hawke lost his composure when 74-year-old Bob Bell stalked him at a shopping centre demanding an explanation for the gap between a politician's pay and a pension. Bell also wanted tax cuts for pensioners.

"I sincerely regret the statements. I was upset by the fact that he denied the existence of the recent tax cuts, and his assertion that I and the politicians were lining our pockets with pay rises," Hawke said in a statement.

"However, this was no excuse for the language I used and I hope that Bob Bell will accept my apology in the spirit in which it is offered," Hawke said.

Opposition political leaders used the incident to attack Hawke's Labour government as arrogant and lacking in feeling for the country's older people.

They claimed Hawke compounded his sin by trying to persuade an Australian Broadcasting Corporation television crew not to televise the incident. The ABC went ahead and televised the exchange on Tuesday night.

Radio phone-in audiences expressed annoyance over the incident.

**Turks dispute claim
Ark spotted**

ANKARA, Sept. 27, (UPI): Two American explorers, given permission to search for the remains of Noah's Ark on Mount Ararat in eastern Turkey, said they saw a boat-shaped object in the area, but Turkish authorities today cast doubt on the claim.

The governor of Agri province in eastern Turkey, said American pilot Chuck Clark of Orlando, Florida, and pharmacist Bob Garbe of Columbus, Ohio, were given permission to fly over Ararat, near a point where the borders of Turkey, Iran and the Soviet Union meet.

Governor Rasim Bas said that a subsequent claim by the two Americans that they spotted the remains of Noah's legendary Ark on a flight over mountain was very doubtful.

The two Americans said last week that they had seen a boat-shaped object at an altitude of about 14,500 (4,400 metres) up the mountain slopes, at a spot that is normally covered by a glacier.



Above the bondage

East German refugees help to lift a pram over the fence into the grounds of the West German embassy in Prague. More than 1,400 East Germans have climbed the fence so far to join the exodus. (Reuters wirephoto)

with Cape province attorney general Niel Rosouw over his outspoken criticism of the way riot squads suppressed anti-apartheid protests last month.

But Rockman said he was off work with a gastric complaint and that he had no definite date to meet Rosouw.

"Such reports are trying to discredit me,"

Rockman told the South African press association. (Reuters)

Atomic energy talks: South Africa will hold exploratory talks with US, Soviet, and British diplomats on joining the 1969 nuclear non-proliferation treaty, atomic energy officials said Tuesday.

The officials, attending the annual meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said South Africa, in a message last week top Director General Hans Blix, announced that Pretoria will meet the diplomats of the treaty's three depository states in December, probably in Vienna. (AP)

Mammel released: Authorities on Tuesday released Trevor Mammel, a prominent anti-apartheid activist who went on a hunger strike after he was detained without charge last month, his attorney said.

Mammel is one of the top-ranking leaders in Cape Town of the banned United Democratic Front, the country's largest anti-apartheid coalition.

Mammel, who has been detained previously, was held in the central city of Bloemfontein and refused to eat for two weeks of his 30-day confinement, attorney Esau Moosa said. (AP)

Mass killer to get engaged: A white ex-policeman sentenced to die for mowing down blacks during a shooting spree in Pretoria is to get engaged and celebrate his 22-year-old girlfriend, the Johannesburg Star said on Wednesday.

Bernard Strydom, 23, and Karen Rautenbach will become engaged during visiting hours on Saturday at Pretoria Central Prison, the convict's mother, Daphne Strydom, was quoted as saying.

There was no official comment on the report. (Reuters)

Nine villagers killed: Right-wing Mozambique guerrillas killed nine villagers and wounded 18 others during raids on the central city of Chimio, raising the death toll in rebel attacks to 22 in the past four days, Radio Mozambique reported on Wednesday.

The guerrillas, armed with knives and guns, raided three suburbs of Chimio shortly after midnight on Tuesday, looting 46 houses during the spree, the radio said.

The state-run news agency Aina reported that after the raid local officials "severely" criticised army and militia commanders for "allowing the bandits to murder defenceless civilians and then go unpunished." (UPI)

Duarte setback: Former President Jose Napoleón Duarte, who is suffering from liver cancer, had a setback yesterday as he was being administered oxygen, his doctor said.

"Duarte is on oxygen and suffering from fever," said Dr Jose Luis Saca. Duarte, 63, fought off a bout with pneumonia last week that Saca had said he did not expect him to survive. After treatment with antibiotics, he overcame the crisis.

"He has had a relapse but the relapse is not serious," Duarte's son Alejandro said. "He is breathing normally, he is conscious and apparently has a problem in his lung." (AP)

Salvador violence: Leftist rebels yesterday attacked government forces on several fronts and vowed that, despite peace talks, they will respond to official repression with military escalation.

According to preliminary reports from military sources in San Salvador at least 64 guerrillas and soldiers were killed or wounded in the fighting. Eight of the country's 14 provinces saw combat. Military posts in three provincial capitals came under attack.

It was the first significant combat since an 11-day unilateral guerrilla ceasefire ended on Sunday. (AP)

Chile blast: A bomb exploded early Tuesday across the street from the US embassy in downtown Santiago, slightly injuring a Chilean security guard and causing minor damage, police and embassy officials reported.

A police officer on the scene said the bomb was planted in a sidewalk garbage can in Agustinas Street, in front of the US embassy and 150 yards (metres) from Chile's presidential palace.

Embassy spokeswoman Sonia Sweck said the embassy "received no threats prior to the blast, and we have no indications to whom it was directed." (AP)

Haiti elections: President Prosper Avril has said he will not be a candidate in Haiti's presidential elections in October, 1990, and warned that the country could soon face violent unrest unless the United States and other nations provided aid.

Avril, who seized power from General Henri Namphy last September and leads a military government, made his comments in an interview with Reuters at the national palace.

قضاء من الأصيل



Peace accord signed

Colombia's M-19 leftist guerrilla group signed a peace agreement with the government on Tuesday in which it made a conditional pledge to lay down its arms over the next year.

The accord was signed by M-19 leader Arlos Pizarro and presidential adviser Jaime Pardo Rueda at the group's remote mountain headquarters in Santo Domingo in southwest Colombia.

The M-19, Colombia's best known guerrilla group, grabbed international attention with its 1985 takeover of Bogota's Palace of Justice in which about 100 people were killed.

Picture shows the rebels standing in formation in Santo Domingo. (Reuter wirephoto)

End war call

Barco refuses to bow

BOGOTA, Sept. 27, (AP) — The leftist M-19 guerrilla movement is urging the government to end its war against the cocaine cartels, pardon drug traffickers and refuse to extradite them to the United States.

The statement by M-19 was published in a full-page advertisement yesterday in El Tiempo, Colombia's largest newspaper. It also urged immediate negotiations between the government and the powerful drug barons.

President Virgilio Barco, vowing never to surrender to "narco-terrorists," said authorities were closing in on the drug lords who have declared war on his government.

"The noise is tightening around the (drug) barons. I expect them to be captured soon," Barco said in a televised speech last night.

The government and the army claim the drug traffickers and an estimated 10,000 guerrillas in six leftist rebel groups work together, with the cocaine cartels providing money to the insurgents in exchange for armed protection.

In a related development yesterday, a judge dropped charges against two reputed leaders of the Medellin drug cartel, saying there wasn't enough evidence.

Hundreds of tourists also fled the city of Cartagena aboard planes, buses and taxis after a bomb exploded on Monday at the Hilton Hotel, killing two people.

In the five weeks since the country's first formal declaration of war on the government for trying to break their trade, there have been 111 bombings, mainly in Bogota, Medellin and Cali.

The United States and Colombia have removed charges against Pablo Emilio Escobar Gaviria and Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, reputed kingpins of the Medellin-based operation that supplies most of the cocaine in the United States.

The activities of British mercenaries training drug gangs in Colombia was one of the topics raised at a meeting yesterday between British Foreign Secretary John Major and his Colombian colleague, Julio Londoño Paredes, according to a British source.

Marcos propped up by pacemaker

HONOLULU, Sept. 27, (AP) — Former Philippine president Ferdinand Marcos was fitted with an external pacemaker after suffering an erratic heartbeat, but the device was later turned off after stabilization, hospital officials said.

Marcos' heartbeat returned to normal after the device was attached on Monday night, said Eugene Tiwanak, assistant administrator of St. Francis Medical Center, where Marcos has been hospitalized since Jan. 15.

Hospital spokeswoman Norma Kop said doctors decided Marcos' heart could beat normally on its own, and device was turned off yesterday. It remained at his side and could be reattached if necessary, she said.

Doctors had no plans to insert an internal pacemaker, she said.

Imelda Marcos said a biopsy on her husband's pancreas was conducted on Saturday to investigate continuing medical problems, the Honolulu Star-Bulletin newspaper said.

Marcos, who turned 72 this month, has been in hospital since Jan. 15, when he went in for treatment of lung ailments. He earlier had two week-long hospital stays in December for treatment of congestive heart failure.

The exiled leader lapsed into critical condition on May 15 and suffered massive heart, lung, and kidney failure two days later. He has undergone emergency operations several times.

Marcos' transplanted kidney — which has been his only functioning kidney — was removed on June 29 after his body began rejecting the organ. His condition was described as semi-comatose at that time.

Marcos has been in the hospital's intensive care unit, dependent on a respirator to breathe and requiring daily kidney dialysis. Doctors have said his prognosis is very poor.

Gringo asks 'evil' Aquino to resign

MANILA, Sept. 27, (Reuter) — A cashed-in colonel who nearly toppled President Corazon Aquino two years ago now accuses her of destroying democratic institutions and establishing an invisible government within the Philippine administration.

Colonel Gregorio Honasan, on the run after escaping from custody, said Aquino had created her own power base in the military, ruined the bureaucracy by putting in her own proteges and committed the same "evils" as her predecessors.

"We are convinced that you have lost the moral and constitutional authority to govern the country, and it's time for you to step down immediately," he said in a letter addressed to the commander-in-chief and circulating in military camps in Manila today.

Aquino, who took power in a popular revolt in 1986 in which Honasan played a key role, is commander-in-chief.

Honasan said Aquino had allowed her relatives and political followers to commit graft and corruption, organize private armies and "play around (with) the lives of the majority of our citizens who are wallowing in poverty."

"In short you have established an invisible government within the government," he said.

Earlier this month, Honasan, in answer to questions sent by a Manila newspaper, hinted at another coup attempt if political conditions worsened.

The August 1987 attempt was the fifth and most serious against the Aquino government. Fifty-three people were killed and at least 300 people injured in the capital.

Aquino and military leaders have said recently there was no group capable of mounting a coup and Honasan's group was capable only of lightning raids.

Senate agrees to \$9.4b war on drugs

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27: Senate negotiators have agreed to boost the "war on drugs" to \$9.4 billion, capping a week of talks with the White House and lifting a Republican blockade that stalled action on four money bills.

As part of their deal, Republicans and Democrats agreed yesterday that later this year, the Senate would consider elements of a crime-fighting package unveiled by President George Bush in June but dormant since then.

With the agreement in hand, the Senate passed two of four appropriations bills that had been stalled by Republicans for more than a week in a move to gain leverage in bargaining over the drug package.

Within an hour the Senate passed a \$14.4-billion foreign aid measure and a \$157.4-billion bill for labor, health and education programs.

The negotiations began early last week after Democrats proposed to add \$2.2 billion to the \$7.9 billion proposed by Bush in a Sept. 5 address to the nation on drugs.

They said that education, treatment and prevention programmes were underfunded in the administration's battle plan for fighting the drug war.

Many elements of the President's crime-fighting package are contained in the drug strategy, but some highly controversial elements are missing and the administration has been pushing for action on them.

They include applying the death penalty to a wider range of crimes than under current law.

Another key provision would place limits on the number of appeals that could be filed by certain prisoners, and a third would ease restrictions on how police and prosecutors obtain certain kinds of evidence.

A Washington teenager has been arrested yesterday on charges of selling the crack cocaine that Bush displayed on national television to illustrate the seriousness of the drug problem.

Keith Jackson, 18, was picked up yesterday at his home in southeast Washington by city police and Drug Enforcement Administration agents, said DEA spokesman Cornelius Dougherty.

He was held without bond pending a hearing today.

In a Sept. 5 televised speech, Bush held up a clear plastic bag containing a handful of crack snuff and said they had been seized across the street from the White House a few days previously.

The alleged dealer was lured to Lafayette Park — not one of Washington's drug markets — four days before by undercover drug agents after White House staffers asked for a sample from the vicinity of the White House to show that dealing could happen anywhere.

Drug-related deaths soared by 23 per cent in the last five-year period for which statistics are available, with blacks more than twice as likely as whites to be victims, the government said yesterday.

Blacks also were more likely than whites to die in 1987 from AIDS, kidney disease, diabetes and diseases associated with infancy. Homicide rates were six times higher for blacks and infant mortality was more than twice as high.

The findings were contained in the most up-to-date report on causes of death in America, "Advance report of final mortality statistics, 1987," published by the National Centre for Health Statistics.

Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan said of the figures: "Even as the lines on almost every disease chart move toward improvement, there is a continuing disparity in the burden of death and illness experienced by blacks and other minority Americans as a whole."

The report found the average life expectancy for an American at birth reached a record high of 75.0 years in 1987, but for whites it reached a record 75.6 years while blacks saw it remain the same as in 1986, 69.4 years.

Cocaine use by 11 to 13 year olds is on the rise in the United States even though use by older teenagers is declining, according to a study made public yesterday.

Talks on US bases to open in December

Quayle protesters dispersed, soldier killed

MANILA, Sept. 27, (Agencies) — Police used tear-gas to disperse anti-American protesters today and earlier arrested at least 155 students protesting a visit by Vice-President Dan Quayle, who won agreement from the Philippine government to open talks in December on key US bases.

Violent protests erupted in Manila and 40 miles away in the city of Angeles near Capas town, where suspected communist guerrillas ambushed and killed two American civilian employees yesterday, two hours before Quayle's arrival in the island nation.

Assassins also believed to be guerrillas shot and killed a Filipino soldier in the capital today, the second in 24 hours, prompting Quayle to observe that the slayings probably were "timed" for his visit.

Quayle, visiting the strategically located US Clark Air Base and Subic Bay naval complex, said that, during a morning call on Philippine President Corazon Aquino, they discussed the attacks on the soldiers.

"Both of us are truly sickened by the vicious acts of terrorists who wish to drown freedom in the blood of innocent men and women," Quayle said in remarks to military personnel at the two bases this afternoon.

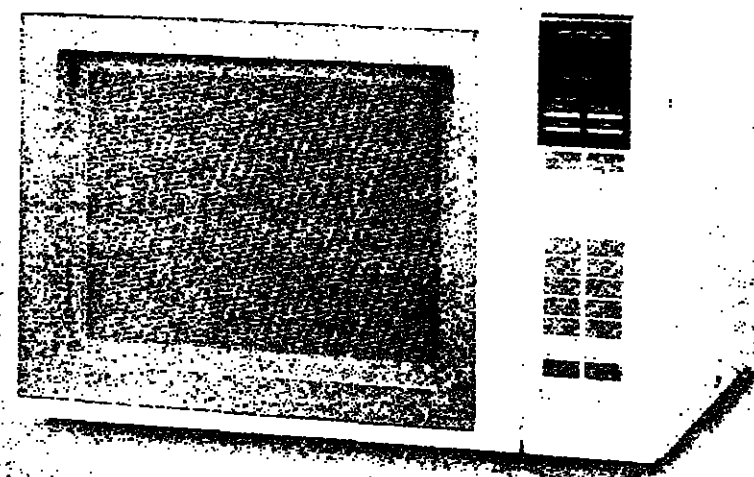


Quayle talk

US Vice-President Dan Quayle talks with Filipino war veterans who fought side-by-side with Americans during the Second World War. Quayle

attended a wreath-laying ceremony at the American cemetery. (Reuter wirephoto)

We Do The Cooking, You Do The Enjoying



RE-990CT

Microwave and Convection Combination Oven with Turn Table

FEATURES

- Microwave and convection combination oven
- 5 cooking methods: Microwave by time, microwave by temperature, broil, convection or auto combination for microwave/convection cooking
- Removable rotating tray for cooking uniformity
- 4-stage memory cooking — each stage programmable for time and power settings in the microwave mode
- Preprogrammed defrost automatically operates at full power for the first 1/6 of selected and at 30% power for the remaining 5/6 of selected time
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- Removable dual position cooking rack

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ON THE DOUBLE

ON THE DOT

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Now is there any other choice?

AIR-INDIA

Britain worried over HK future

LONDON, Sept 27, (Agencies): Britain re-opened talks with China today on the 1997 hand-over of Hong Kong, aiming to rebuild the colony's shattered confidence after Beijing's violent suppression of pro-democracy demonstrations last June.

British and Chinese diplomats met in London for the first time since the government suspended high-level contacts with Beijing in protest at the crackdown nearly four months ago.

A government source confirmed that Britain would raise concern about the deployment of the Chinese Army in Hong Kong after the colony is returned to Beijing.

Britain is also expected to voice disquiet at provisions in the basic law, a mini-constitution under which Hong Kong will be governed after 1997, giving China discretion to impose state of emergency regulations in the colony.

But leaders of the Chinese and British delegations refused to five details ahead of news conferences scheduled for Friday when the three-day talks are completed.

"We have this morning had a full and frank exchange of views and one that for my part I have found very useful," said Robin McLaren, assistant under-secretary of state at the Foreign Office.

Ke Zai Shuo, China's ambassador to the talks, also called the discussions frank and useful.

Despite Hong Kong's economic uneasiness in the wake of the Tiananmen Square massacre, the colony can continue to prosper under Chinese rule if it remains somewhat autonomous, according to a report issued yesterday by Sri International.

In a five-part blueprint for Hong Kong's future, the research and consulting firm said Hong Kong's continued success as an economic focal point of Asia is vital to the People's Republic of China.

For the colony to thrive after China takes over from the British in 1997, China's leaders must adopt a hands-off attitude, the report said.

Here are the main points made by Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin and five other members of the party's top leadership during a rare news conference.

Jiang said the world "tragedy" does not apply to the military crackdown in June on students.

He refused to rule out further death sentences.

Jiang said senior leader Deng Xiaoping has suggested many times that he retire from the chairmanships of the state and party Central Military Commissions.

Jiang said his predecessors, Zhao Ziyang, ousted in June after losing a power struggle triggered by the protests, remains a party member and "still leads quite a comfortable life."

Jiang said he could not rule out the use of force to regain control of Taiwan.

France, rejecting protests from Beijing that it is aiding and abetting Chinese dissidents, said yesterday it had simply offered shelter to exiles on the run.

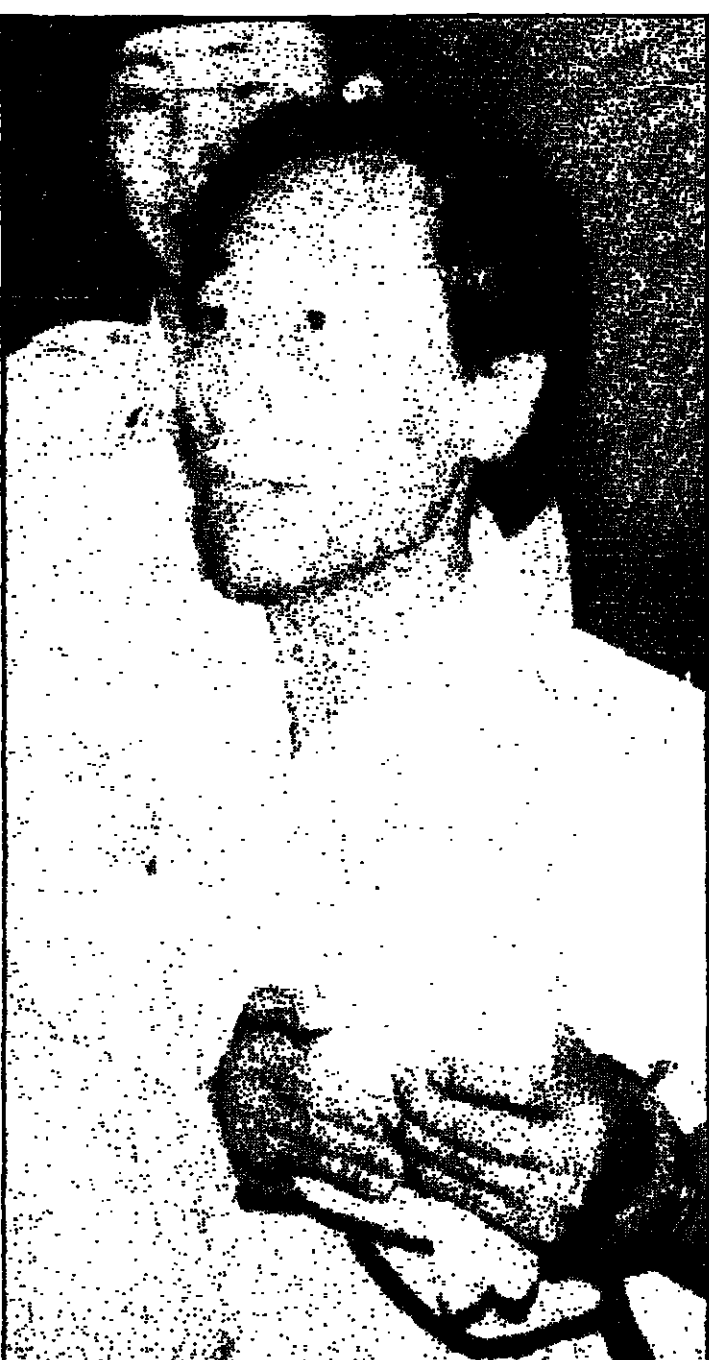
In the first official response to a series of harsh attacks from Beijing against the French government, Claude Martin, the head of the Foreign Ministry's Asia Department, said: "France, traditionally a land of asylum, offered shelter to Chinese dissidents and has no reason to hinder their activities so long as they do not overstep certain limits."

Premier Li Peng, in a remark Western analysts say may haunt him, called Taiwan and mainland China "separate countries" yesterday in the first news conference by senior leaders since the military crackdown in June.

Newly selected Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin addressed most of the questions, but Li appeared to blunder in responding to a visiting Taiwan journalist about the mainland's relations with the island province.

"As the people of the separate countries of Taiwan and China have more contact and increase mutual understanding," said Li, "progress towards unification will be achieved."

In San Francisco an immigration official has denied bail for two Chinese students who fled to the United States from Tokyo after they protested against the Tiananmen Square massacre, their lawyer said yesterday.



Suh denies spying charges

South Korean opposition Member of Parliament Suh Kyung-Won hands bound by ropes, enters a Seoul court, where he denied prosecution charges of spying for communist North Korea. (Reuters wirephoto)

Korean talks fail

Delegates to meet again

PANMUNJOM, Korea, Sept 27, (AP): North Korea and South Korea traded accusations today at their first Red Cross talks in four years on trying to reunite separated families, but they agreed to meet again.

Red Cross delegates from the two sides met at the Panmunjom truce village in the demilitarised zone dividing the two nations to try to work out plans for exchange visits of separated family members, entertainers and journalists.

The talks quickly bogged down when the two sides presented different plans and timetables. North Korean chief delegate Pak Young Su criticised South Korea for jailing South Korean dissidents who visited the North.

"How can we continue dialogue with your side holding in prison those who came to Pyongyang for unification talks," Pak asked.

They should be freed to facilitate our dialogue," he added, calling their punishment "a major obstacle" to all inter-Korea dialogue.

A top South Korean dissident, the Rev. Moon Ik-Kwan, and several others are facing charges of violating national security laws by visiting the communist North. They were arrested when they returned to South Korea earlier this year.

The two Koreas do not allow their citizens to visit each other without government permission. The joint border is sealed, with hundreds of thousands of heavily armed troops facing each other.

South Korean chief delegate Song Yong-Dae rejected the North Korean accusations, saying Red Cross talks "cannot be swayed or impeded by other issues having nothing to do with humanitarian projects."

"Your side is drawing political issues into humanitarian talks," he charged. The meeting ended after an hour of arguing, but the two sides agreed to meet again Oct 6.

Four defectors from North Korea said today the communist country had increased ideological indoctrination after thousands of foreigners were allowed to attend a youth festival in Pyongyang.

The defectors, who fled over the past several weeks, said North Korea was also stepping up its military preparedness and combat units were practising to invade South Korea.

Disgraced former President Chun Doo Hwan, angry at the way the government circles are handling an on-going political controversy over his alleged misdeeds, wants to tell his own story about his past rule, a published report said today.

Vietnam troops still in Cambodia

Khmer steps up propaganda

BANGKOK, Sept 27, (Reuters): A Thai official said today tens of thousands of Vietnamese troops were still in Cambodia, fighting Khmer Rouge guerrillas despite Hanoi's claim that they had all left by Tuesday.

At the same time, the Khmer Rouge stepped up propaganda to persuade Cambodian government troops to abandon their positions, saying they had launched a three-pronged offensive to capture the strategic town of Pailin.

Deputy Foreign Minister Prapas Limpabhandu, touring villages along Thailand's border with Cambodia, said Vietnam had recently reinforced its positions against the guerrillas, which enjoy Bangkok's support and operate from bases in Thailand.

"Tens of thousands of Vietnamese settlers (in Cambodia) have been recruited and trained to be soldiers replacing the withdrawn troops," Prapas told reporters after being briefed by military officials during a helicopter trip along the border.

He cited as evidence military intelligence reports and heavy armed forces in the area.

Slovenia proclaims right to secede

LJUBLJANA, Yugoslavia, Sept 27, (Agencies): The Yugoslav republic of Slovenia defied federal authorities today and declared that Slovenia had the right to secede from the country.

Parliament's three chambers adopted the change to the republic's constitution by 145 votes to one, 67 votes to none, and 44 votes to none with one abstention.

The vote deepened the political turmoil in Yugoslavia, shaken this year by ethnic Albanian riots in the southern province of Kosovo, factional rivalry in the ruling Communist Party and inflation which has zoomed to 900 per cent.

Yugoslavia's federal Communist Party, the government and the armed forces had all warned Slovenia not to pass the amendments. Party leaders met throughout the night in Belgrade and declared the changes a threat to Yugoslavia's territorial integrity.

Opponents of Slovenia organised a rally of thousands of people in Titograd, capital of the southern republic of Montenegro, at which speakers demanded the replacement of Slovenian party chief Milan Kucan and his colleagues.

At the Kosovo lead and zinc mine of Trepcia, a focal point of this year's ethnic Albanian unrest, hundreds of miners went on strike in protest at not having received their salaries for August.

"The Slovenian Parliament is the only legal institution which can decide on such crucial matters," Slovenian Parliament President Miran Potrce told the session.

"We are convinced that the changes will only serve to strengthen, and not to threaten, the concept of Yugoslavia as a free, democratic and equitable community of peoples," he said.

Curious Slovenian onlookers lined the street in front of the downtown Parliament building in the regional capital of Ljubljana, approaching the arriving delegates with demands that they not bow to federal pressure.

Just over 300 East German would-be emigrants are believed to be inside the West German mission and a Roman Catholic church building on the outskirts of Warsaw.

"A solution to this difficult problem is on the way. Both German states concerned in the matter appear to be approaching an agreement which takes into consideration the two sides' position and the humanitarian aspect," Staniszwski said.

"Poland has been trying from the very start to bring closer a solution that would meet constructive and humanitarian criteria," he said.

Germanys nearing accord on refugees

300 would-be emigrants in Warsaw

WARSAW, Sept 27, (Reuters): East and West Germany appear close to agreement over the occupation of Bonn's Warsaw embassy by East Germans who want to emigrate to the West, the Polish Foreign Ministry said today.

Ministry spokesman Stefan Staniszwski told a news conference he expected an agreement that would take account of both countries' interests as well as "humanitarian aspects."

Staniszwski did not say when an agreement was likely and gave no more details. West German embassy officials were not available for comment.

The phrase "humanitarian solution" was a phrase Bonn and Budapest used while the Hungarians prepared to open their border with Austria on Sept 11 and let all East Germans who wanted to emigrate to the West.

Fresh negotiations between East German refugees and their government resumed today in Bonn's embassy in Prague, as the number of would-be emigrants increased further overnight.

According to refugees who talked to reporters, up to 1,400 people were believed crowding into the West German mission's garden, where tension has risen since an unidentified East German man was attacked outside the compound.

The 25-year-old man was assaulted and beaten up in a wooded area near the embassy, said three East Germans who found the victim after he had yelled for help.

They claimed the assailants were three Czechoslovak uniformed policemen. The man was unconscious when he was hoisted across the fence into the embassy garden.

The exact number of refugees in the compound was not immediately clear. Some refugees reported that scores of newcomers scaled the mission's fence late last night and today, apparently unable to cope with conditions in the overcrowded garden. Their fate was unknown.

A further 600 East German refugees trooped into West Germany by early today, raising the total to some 21,300 since Hungary opened its border.

The migrants arrived in buses, trains or private cars. Most registered at reception centres to stay a few days before leaving to join relatives, friends or jobs elsewhere in West Germany.

West German officials say the influx has settled into a pattern of several hundred daily, down from the thousands who poured in during the first four days after Hungary opened its border with Austria on September 11.

A Bavaria state border police spokesman said several more buses expected to arrive from Hungary early tomorrow.

Hungary, used by thousands of East Germans as an escape route to the West, is to relax its own migration laws.

Parliament passed a law last yesterday scrapping regulations that have deterred many Hungarian migrants from returning by insisting they abandon any new citizenship and change assets into local currency.

Passage of the new law, which takes effect on January 1, paved the way for Hungary to be given preferential treatment in its trade with the United States.

New Forum, East Germany's growing popular movement for reform, has begun a potentially dangerous game of political chess with the hardline communist authorities.

In just over two weeks the group has emerged from nowhere to become the most powerful unofficial force in East Germany's 40 years of orthodox communism. Thousands marched through Leipzig on Monday chanting its name.

There is no sign that East German Communist Party faces an immediate serious challenge to its grip on power despite the westward exodus of thousands of East Germans.

Germany's representative Wolfgang Vogel who was sent to Prague by leader Erich Honecker to solve the problem of some 1,300 East Germans staying at the Prague embassy presently. (Reuters wirephoto)



Still languishing

An East German refugee holds a piece of paper through the fence of the West German embassy in Prague. The paper with the address of an East German lawyer was handed out to him by East

Austria to take in Jews

NEW YORK, Sept 27, (UPI): Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock said yesterday 30,000 Soviet Jews are prepared to emigrate to the West and one-third will go directly to Austria.

Mock said more Hungarians and Poles will leave for "economic and social motives," but will have difficulty to settle in Western nations because of new restrictions imposed on immigrants.

"In a few weeks, we will have another difficulty because of the US decision to restrict Soviet Jews entering the United States," Mock said. He said he has appealed to US authorities to accept more Soviet Jews and relieve Austria of the burden of giving shelters to tens of thousands of refugees.

"But I still prefer to receive them and suffice instead of crying loudly for other countries to accept them," Mock said.

Mock said in New York to address the UN General Assembly session. He said Austria has accepted more than 300,000 Soviet Jews in the past 30 years and the number of Jews allowed to leave the Soviet Union will grow every year, with about 45,000 expected in 1989, 30,000 of whom have received permission to leave immediately.

He praised the Hungarian government for being "very courageous" to accept thousands of East Germans despite bilateral treaties with other countries in the Warsaw Pact on the question of refugees.

US Embassy officials unable to handle a flood of would-be emigrants in Moscow announced yesterday that applications would be handled by Washington beginning Oct 1.

The US will issue visas for Soviet Jews from its Moscow Embassy at a limited number, the American Embassy in Vienna declared today.

The statement said that the new procedure will be applied to Soviet Jews wishing to immigrate as of October first.

Search for clues to Athens killing

Same pistol used

ATHENS, Sept 27, (AP): Police searched for clues today that would help them identify the killers of conservative lawmaker Pavlos Bakoyannis.

Bakoyannis was gunned down by two assailants as he entered his downtown Athens political office at 8.00 am (0600 GMT) on Monday, witnesses reported to police.

The urban guerrilla group November 17 claimed responsibility for killing the 54-year-old son-in-law of conservative New Democracy Party leader Constantinos Mitsotakis.

November 17 in a proclamation scattered near the scene of the shooting, said they killed Bakoyannis because he was allegedly connected with a multi-million dollar bank embezzlement scandal presently under debate in Greek Parliament.

The only clue police had in hand was that the weapon that killed Bakoyannis was previously used by the terrorists in other politically motivated killings.

A police official who asked that he remain anonymous, said ballistic tests on the bullets recovered from Bakoyannis' body showed that they were fired from a 45-calibre pistol, "the same weapon used by the November 17 terrorist organisation to kill at least five other persons."

He said that Richard Welch, the US embassy's CIA station chief who was murdered in December 1975, was the first one "we know to have been shot with the 45-calibre pistol."

The police official said that the other victims shot and killed by the same weapon which November 17 claimed credit for were former security officer Evangelos Mallios in December 1976, police officer Pantelis Petrou in January 1980, newspaper publisher Nikos Moutafas in February 1985 and industrialist Alexandros Athanasiadis.

Bakoyannis was the 14th person November 17 claimed responsibility for killing and the 21st attack since 1975 when it first surfaced.

The group takes its name after the day in 1973 when troops crushed a student uprising at the Athens polytechnic institute against the 1967-1974 military dictatorship.

As an interim measure toward the goal of unification of the peninsula, we would welcome and support simultaneous or separate UN membership for South and North Korea which would also enhance the universality of the United Nations.

On Soviet relations: New Soviet thinking is discernible in the renewed Sino-Soviet relationship, Cambodia and Afghanistan. "In light of these developments, Japan hopes to strengthen and expand the political dialogue being actively pursued with the Soviet Union so as to realise genuine improvement in the bilateral relationship, including resolution of the Northern Territories issue."

On China: "Recent events in China shocked the world and strongly affected the feelings which the Japanese people have toward that country. Nevertheless, Japan's expectations for China's policies of reform and openness remain unchanged, and I hope that the Chinese government will pay due heed to world opinion and strive to regain the confidence of the international community."

Curious Slovenian onlookers lined the street in front of the downtown Parliament building in the regional capital of Ljubljana, approaching the arriving delegates with demands that they not bow to federal pressure.

Link to Pan Am bombing ruled out

BONN, Sept 27, (Reuters): West Germany today again rebuffed British suggestions that a bomb that blew apart a Pan Am jumbo jet over Scotland was planted by Palestinian commandos at Frankfurt airport.

Lord Fraser, head of the British and of the inquiry into the December 1988 bombing that killed 270 people, said on Monday available information could point to a firm link with 14 Palestinians arrested in West Germany two months before.

The 14 had been suspected of bombmaking and plotting terrorist attacks. All but two were freed after a few days in jail for what Bonn officials said was lack of firm evidence.

Hans Neusel, state secretary in Bonn's Interior Ministry, today rejected Fraser's remarks as speculative — just as West German investigators have done in response to previous British statements suggesting sloppy West German police work might be to blame for the Pan Am bombing.

"There is still no clear information on the identity of the culprit or concrete evidence on how the bomb was brought aboard the jumbo, or whether it was brought aboard at Frankfurt — and this cannot be ruled out — or at (London's) Heathrow (airport)," Neusel said in a radio interview.

Pan Am Flight 103 originated in Frankfurt. Passengers switched to a larger Boeing 747 in London and the plane was blown out of the sky over Lockerbie, Scotland, shortly after departing for its final destination, New York.

The Palestinians arrested in West Germany were suspected members of the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), based in Damascus.

Seized in the arrests were three bombs hidden in cassette recorders apparently rigged to explode at high altitude, the type of explosive which preliminary inquiries have shown was used to obliterate the Pan Am airliner.

Congressional investigators say that almost a year after a Pan Am jet exploded over Scotland, the US Federal Aviation Administration can't say that its promised tighter security precautions are in place.

Airlines are not meeting their security requirements and the training of security workers appears to be the biggest problem, according to a US General Accounting Office report that was summarised Monday by a congressionalwoman.

Urine samples taken two days after a US Air jet skidded into the East River five miles (eight kilometres) from the heart of Manhattan contained no sign of drug or alcohol use by the pilot or co-pilot, prosecutors say.

The test results were made public by the office of Queens district attorney John J. Santucci on Monday, the same day he announced that a grand jury would look into the crash that killed two people last week.

A grand jury is a panel of citizens who review evidence and decide whether a case should go to trial and, if so, which charges should be filed.

Crash storm refuses to die

ROME, Sept 27, (Reuters): Military radar operators have started a political storm with new evidence on a mystery 1980 Italian airliner crash which contradicts statements by generals and ministers and fuels allegations of a cover-up.

The evidence to magistrates yesterday by three air force sergeants contradicted repeated official statements saying military radar operators did not see the crash.

It broke a wall of military silence over the deaths of 81 people in the crash on a domestic flight of a DC-9 airliner into the sea off Sicily in June 1980.

The evidence also revived previous speculation that the DC-9 was accidentally shot down by an Italian or foreign fighter pursuing another plane, carrying either Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Gaddafi or an escaping Libyan rebel air force officer.

Soviets still a 'major threat'

Bush hopeful of Start treaty

WASHINGTON, Sept 27, (Agencies): In another sign of warming relations between the superpowers, US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney announced today that Soviet Defence Minister Dmitri Yazov will visit the United States next week.

Pentagon officials said Yazov would visit Washington and probably other areas of the country from Oct 1-6.

Cheney told reporters at a news conference that "promoting military-to-military exchanges are a very useful thing."

The announcement of the latest in a series of superpower military exchanges came as the US Defence Department issued a toned-down annual report on "Soviet military power," noting that major changes were afoot in the Soviet Union.



Shevardnadze enjoys his own joke during address to UN General Assembly (Reuters wirephoto).

The Soviet Union is modernizing its armed forces and still poses "a major threat" to Western security despite President Mikhail Gorbachev's promised cutbacks and pledges of reform, says Cheney.

Cheney sounded a note of caution amid the sweeping changes in the US-Soviet relationship.

"While the United States encourages the evolution of... a Soviet Union dedicated to democratic principles, we cannot react unilaterally to Soviet initiatives that are not yet implemented or to proposals which, if implemented, can easily be reversed," Cheney said in the study, "Soviet Military Power."

He said it is "clear that despite the dramatic changes occurring in the Soviet Union and the Soviet leadership's declaration of benign intentions toward Western democracies, Soviet military capabilities continue to constitute a major threat to our security."

The Soviet Union, the secretary asserted, "continues to upgrade its forces and improve its capabilities."

"Indeed, while some Soviet military units and equipment have been withdrawn from Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union will remain the world's largest military power, even if the general secretary's promised unilateral reductions take place," Cheney said.

President George Bush said today he shared Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's view that a strategic arms reduction treaty might be ready for signing at next year's US-Soviet summit.

"I think the setting of a summit perhaps will serve as a catalyst for our moving forward," he said.

While cautioning that it was "not absolutely certain" that a superpower agreement to make deep cuts in strategic arms would be completed by the time he and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev meet in the spring or early summer, the President added: "I would agree that we have a good likelihood that (that) might happen."

However, Bush appeared to rule out agreement any time soon on a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty — a pact the Kremlin wants.

The chief American negotiator at space talks in Geneva said yesterday the United States will invite the Soviets to visit two major "Star Wars" programmes at Los Alamos.

The Democratic-controlled Senate has endorsed an additional cut of nearly \$300 million in President George Bush's "Star Wars" programme as part of a \$288 billion military spending bill.

Soviet nod to chemo plan Bush pleased

WASHINGTON, Sept 27, (Agencies): President George Bush said yesterday he was pleased by the Soviet Union's endorsement of a plan to slash stockpiles of chemical weapons and said the two superpowers had achieved "some good common ground."

Thomas Foley, Speaker of the House of Representatives, called Bush's plan for US-Soviet reductions "a good first step" but said it does not answer the question of how to control chemical weapons production by other countries.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, in a United Nations speech, said Moscow will join the United States and "radically reduce or completely destroy" all its chemical weapons stockpiles.

He also challenged Bush to join the Soviet Union in stopping production of all chemical weapons, halting nuclear tests and stopping the manufacture of weapons-grade plutonium and uranium.

The theme of chemical weapons was quickly taken up in speeches of other delegations such as the French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, who said European nations were eager for a ban on the weapons.

And Japan, through its Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, offered to lend its technological expertise to a verification process on nuclear testing as well as chemical warfare.

At the White House, Bush said, "I am very pleased with the way things are going. The reaction from the Soviets to our proposals yesterday has been positive so now the goal is to get moving and try to work out these agreements."

"But we've got some good common ground that I don't think we had before the foreign minister came here," the President said. "I know he's accurately reflecting Mr Gorbachev's view."



Hopes to set world record

Five-year-old Sheetal Pandya, who is hoping to enter the Guinness Book of Records for skating 1,800 km from New Delhi to Bombay, accompanies her father Jagdish Pandya for a short skate, Jagdish is skating some 3,840 km around India to raise money for cancer patients. (Reuters wirephoto)

Poachers face death

GAUHATI, India, Sept 27, (Reuters): Poachers preying on elephants and rare Indian one-horned rhinoceroses have been warned to stop killing the animals or face death themselves.

Separatist gunmen of the United Liberation Front of Assam claimed responsibility for shooting a businessman in the north-eastern state this month and warned they were ready to strike again to protect the animals.

UFLA has released a list of 43 men it claims are involved in poaching or trading in rhino horns or elephants tusks, along with officials accused of accepting bribes to turn a blind eye.

"Poachers and smugglers who were never scared of the police will certainly stop for the time being as the UFLA has put the fear of death in them," an Assam forestry official said.

Kissinger ordered to appear in court

CHICAGO, Sept 27, (UPI): A federal judge yesterday ordered former secretary of state Henry Kissinger to testify in the libel suit brought by former Indian prime minister Moraji Desai against Pulitzer prize-winning author Seymour Hersh.

US district Judge Charles Norgle ordered Kissinger to appear in court at 10:30 am today after attorneys for Desai submitted a motion to compel the testimony.

"If this is a motion to compel his appearance at 10:30 am, it is so ordered," Norgle said. "I'm entering this order reluctantly, but we are in mid-trial here."

Desai's attorneys served the subpoena on Kissinger last week as the former secretary of state prepared to address the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations.

Hersh, a journalist and author, is the subject of a \$100 million libel suit filed by Desai, who contends Hersh wrongly named him as a Central Intelligence Agency informant during the 1960s and 1970s in his 1983 book, "The Price of Power: Kissinger in the Nixon White House."

India's Prithvi: test fire a success

NEW DELHI, Sept 27, (UPI): An Indian-built, surface-to-surface rocket streaked away from southern Andhra Pradesh state today and splashed into the Bay of Bengal in the second successful test of the nuclear-capable missile, the Defence Ministry said.

A spokesman said military technicians fired the rocket called "Prithvi" — Hindi for earth — at 10:45 am from a test site in the coastal town of Sriharikota, 1,075 miles (1,725 km) southeast of New Delhi.

The missile followed a pre-planned trajectory accurately before impacting in the Bay of Bengal, the official said, citing a report from the defence research and development organisation, which made and launched the missile.

It was the second successful test of the pencil-shaped Prithvi, which was first fired on Feb 29, 1988, and carried a 2,200-pound (1,000 kg) payload 150 miles.

The official gave no details on the range of the second test, but reports have said technicians planned to use a smaller dummy warhead to try to extend the distance of the surface-to-surface device.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has said New Delhi plans to mass produce the Prithvi and would only use it as a conventional weapon.

But defence experts are sceptical of his claim because they say the Prithvi, which is close in technology to the Soviet Scud missile, is too inaccurate and expensive to be used for surgical strikes and is more suitable for bearing chemical or nuclear warheads.

India detonated a nuclear device in 1974, but maintains it will not develop a nuclear arsenal unless compelled to do so by Pakistan, its foe in three wars since 1948.

Defence experts mostly agree New Delhi does not have the bomb, but say India is slowly putting into place an infrastructure of facilities and devices such as delivery system applicable if a decision is made to go nuclear.

India's integrated guided missile development programme began in 1983, and includes plans to develop surface-to-air and anti-tank missiles, as well as medium-range ballistic device called "Agni."

Attacks mar Lanka truce

3 killed, buses set ablaze

COLOMBO, Sept 27, (Reuters): Attacks by suspected Sinhalese rebels, killing three people and setting fire to buses, marred the first day of a government ceasefire that came into force today, military sources said.

The security forces suspended military operations against the leftwing People's Liberation Front for three days, from 6 am (0030 GMT) in a bid by the government to stop a wave of killings and sabotage.

The sources said suspected front members stabbed to death a railway guard in Colombo and shot dead a government official at Girandurukotte in the central Badulla region.

In another incident, earlier, the bodyguard of a provincial council member was killed and three other guards were wounded when suspected rebels fired on the politician's car.

The councillor, a member of the ruling United National Party in the Badulla district escaped unhurt.

The sources said at least 10 state-run buses, mostly in the northwestern Kurunegala region, were set ablaze.

No breaches of the ceasefire had been received in its first five hours.

"We hope that these are only sporadic incidents and not a deliberate attempt by the JVP (the Sinhalese initials of the front) to break the ceasefire," a military officer said.

The sources said the incidents were expected to be investigated by a three-member committee, headed by a former Supreme Court judge, appointed by President Ranasinghe Premadasa to monitor the ceasefire.

The armed forces and the police suspended all anti-subversive operations, initially for 72 hours, and invited the rebels to surrender.

The government said the ceasefire would be extended if there was a favourable response from the subversives, a term used to describe members of the front, accused of killing 4,000 people in a two-year anti-government campaign.

The sources said 60 rebels had surrendered up to noon today in different parts of the island.

The government yesterday dropped 200,000 leaflets on front hideouts, urging the rebels to surrender. In addition to protection and rehabilitation, the government also offered the rebels money if they surrendered with weapons.

An average of 30 political killings have been reported daily during the past month in one of the worst cycles of violence on the island.

Some of the killings were done by pro-government vigilante squads hunting the rebels. The bodies of their victims were usually burnt on heaps of tyres by the roadside or dumped in rivers.

Military sources said a ceasefire between Indian troops and Tamil separatist guerrillas in the northeast appeared to be holding with no major incidents reported since it began on Sept 20.

India has said it will try to withdraw the remaining 41,000 soldiers from the island by the end of the year.

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— KE 804 - DEP. 18:50 (Tuesday) - Jeddah

ARR. 15:15 (Wednesday) - Seoul

— KE 803 - DEP. 20:40 (Monday) - Seoul

ARR. 04:40 (Tuesday) - Jeddah

* RIYADH

— KE 808 - DEP. 23:00 (Saturday) - Riyadh

ARR. 01:20 (Sunday) - Bahrain

ARR. 20:40 (Sunday) - Seoul

— KE 807 - DEP. 12:00 (Saturday) - Seoul

ARR. 18:50 (Saturday) - Bahrain

ARR. 21:00 (Saturday) - Riyadh

For details contact

KOREAN AIR

Jeddah 6606396	Riyadh 4652945	Dhahran 8645095
Bahrain 234445	Dubai 4652949	Amman 864233
Kuwait 2425440	Doha 428043	Baghdad 8867137
Alar (Doha) 3187000	Cairo 747399	Damascus 219119
Sanaa 272547	Tehran 833051	Muscat 704456

MIDEAST

Palestinians defy Israel tax raids

BEIT SAHOUR, West Bank, Sept. 27. (Reuters) Israeli tax officials yesterday raided the occupied West Bank town of Beit Sahour for a sixth day but residents vowed to pursue a campaign of civil disobedience and support for the Palestinian uprising.

A statement prepared jointly by Beit Sahour residents and Israeli peace activists compared Palestinian refusal to pay taxes to the occupier with American refusal to pay British rulers in the 18th century.

"Taxation without representation violates fundamental principles of self-determination and civil rights," it said. "We don't have to pay taxes to a govern-

ment who puts its hand on us," mechanic Michel Jamil Kukali said after soldiers and tax collectors stripped his house of furniture and seized his garage equipment.

Kukali said he would only pay the \$5,000 that tax authorities said he owed if uprising leaders revoked the strike call. "If they tell me to, I pay," he said. "I am a man of Beit Sahour. I can only do what the town does."

Israeli troops have raided about 40 shops and residences in Beit Sahour and taken merchandise worth more than \$100,000, acting mayor Khalil Aheir told reporters.

"Every day, from eight until three, they

come and they take," he said.

Mayor Hanna Attarash is recovering from a recent attack by Arabs suspected of working for Israel.

A spokesman for the Israeli authority refused to comment on the value of goods taken or the extent of the raids.

"The goal is to make people pay what they have to pay in the context of the law," he said. "People got many notices that they had to pay before we did this."

Beit Sahour has been a centre of civil disobedience since the uprising against Israel's rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip erupted in December 1987. The revolt's leaders later ordered Palestinians

to refuse Israeli tax demands.

Meanwhile, in occupied Jerusalem, an Israeli group today criticised the government's policy of demolishing the homes of Palestinian suspects as "a violation of human rights and international law."

A radical Palestinian leader said today the PLO rejected a Middle East peace plan presented by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Israel will defy the United Nations and stand firm in its policy of the deporting leaders of the Palestinian uprising because its only other choice is to execute them, Israeli Finance Minister Shimon Peres said yesterday.



An Israeli officer argues with an elderly Palestinian as a worker for the Israeli tax authority removes a handful of mason's trowels from the hardware shop belonging to Bassam Tawil, as tax raids continue in West Bank. (Reuters wirephoto)

MIDEAST BRIEFS



Peace on trial

Jewish peace campaigner Abie Nathan, 62, has been convicted by an Israeli court for meeting PLO leader Yasser Arafat last year in violation of an Israeli anti-terrorism law. Nathan proudly acknowledged meeting Arafat, saying, "You can't make peace with PLO without talking to them." (Reuters wirephoto)

Gunman offers

PARIS, Sept. 27. (Reuters) A Lebanese gunman serving a life sentence in France for trying to kill a former Iranian prime minister is offering to pay for his release, his lawyer said today.

Jacques Verges, a defence counsel for Anis Naccache, said his client, with Tehran's backing, would pay several million francs in compensation to the victims of the attack, but he could not give a precise amount.

Turkey accepts

STRASBOURG, France, Sept. 27. (Reuters) Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal announced today that Turkey would accept the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights, the court of last resort for 21 Western European democracies.

The decision means Turks who feel their grievances have not been justly dealt with at home can appeal to the court based in Strasbourg.

UN staff honours

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 27. (AP) Hundreds of UN employees rallied Tuesday on behalf of their colleagues including US Marine Lt. Col. William Higgins — who have been imprisoned or killed while serving the world body.

The staffers carried signs in English, Russian, Chinese, Arabic, Spanish and French calling on the 159 members nations of the United Nations to respect the human rights of UN peacekeepers, diplomats and staff.

Bring currency

ANKARA, Sept. 27. (AP) Turkey now requires ethnic Turkish immigrants from Bulgaria to carry hard currency when they enter this country, a Foreign Ministry official said yesterday.

Ferhat Attaman, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, said every adult ethnic Turk arriving with a 15-day tourist visa must have \$1,050 or the equivalent in hard currency. He said children under 18 must have at least \$750.

Kurdish rebel held

KARLSRUHE, West Germany, Sept. 27. (Reuters) West German police have arrested a militant Kurdish separatist on suspicion of violently interrogating disloyal members of the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK). The federal prosecutor's office said yesterday.

It said the man, known as Veli, was detained in Cologne last week after West Germany issued an international warrant for his arrest charging him with punishing party dissidents and opponents.

Iran seizes gold coins

NICOSIA, Sept. 27. (AP) Iranian authorities have broken up a gang of bullions smugglers, seizing 2,000 gold coins, as a radical Tehran daily called for intensifying a crackdown on "economic terrorists," the Islamic Republic News Agency reported today.

It was the second major gold seizure in Iran announced this week.

Officials said yesterday that ten tons of gold worth \$155 million was seized in the southern Hormozgan province as it was about to be smuggled into neighbouring Pakistan.

The official news agency said the gang rounded up with the gold coins in the southern Isfahan province had smuggled out "large numbers of gold coins" before it was broken up.

The agency did not say when the second gang was arrested or put any value on the gold coins, which each weigh 8.2 grams.

The seizures were announced amid a growing clamour for Iran's new President, Hashemi Rafsanjani, to take tough action against official corruption, profiteers and smugglers.

Muslims unite, calls Khaddafi

Infighting must end

ROME, Sept. 27. (Agencies) Libyan leader Col Moammar Khaddafi described Muslim against Muslim violence and said guns, bombs and extremism should only be used to fight the enemies of Islam.

The official Libyan news agency Jana, monitored in Rome, said Khaddafi told an Islamic seminar in Tripoli that infighting between Muslim factions only benefits the enemies of the faith.

Islam today gathers a "multitude of contracting movements," said Khaddafi, "some of which we made, some the Americans made and some were made by the Mossad or the KGB."

He said the movements include a fundamentalist faction that wants to return to the basics of Islam, to resurrect the religion and keep its traditions, morals and customs.

Another faction has taken "a secret, violent, terrorist and extremist trend," said Khaddafi, speaking of groups that carry out attacks against other Muslims for reasons of power or wealth.

"If such extremism was against the enemies of Islam, then we all must be extremists and choose violence against the Israelis to liberate the holy land and Palestine ... against the Americans and against the enemies of Islam to stop them where they are."

Jana said that Khaddafi told more than 250 Muslim clerics, thinkers, activists and leaders from 48 countries, who came to Tripoli for the seminar sponsored by the World Council for Islamic Call and the Organisation of Islamic Conference, that Muslim infighting threatens the faith.

"If you were able to sacrifice, you should sacrifice on the Golan (Heights). Do not sacrifice in the streets of Damascus. If we turned Islam into a secret work and into bombs and explosives, then that means we are bombing Islam..." said Khaddafi.

"This religion is dying if its resorts to bombs, guns, knives, working in the dark and sabotag-



Khaddafi

ing Islamic activity from the inside ... It also means that this religion declares its end, its bankruptcy and its inability to hold a dialogue, to offer and to launch a holy war," Khaddafi added.

He said that Muslim infighting only benefits the staunch enemies of Islam such as the Americans and Israelis. He said it hurts the religion "in front of the world by presenting it as being the bomb, the gun and the assassinations."

"This is not suitable for a universal religion followed by a quarter of the world ... It is not

suitable to return to darkness, bombs, guns and knives..." said Khaddafi.

Khaddafi called for the unification of Islamic countries under one party which he called "the Party of God."

"We want to form the Party of God and abolish all other parties. We should announce our agreement on forming an Islamic leadership which will aim at uniting the (Islamic) nation and lead it to victory," said Khaddafi.

"We want power and victory for the Islamic nation on earth until we crush Zionism, crusades, racism and imperialism and all other movements against Islam."

Khaddafi said that political parties were never mentioned in the Holy Quran and they were used as a ploy by the United States and others to harm and weaken Islam.

"Those who refuse to take up arms against the United States, Israel and their allies are not real Muslims," he added.

He also called for the establishment of an Islamic organisation equivalent to the International Council of Churches or World Jewish Congress to help poor Muslims throughout the world.

Lebanon plan hits snags, truce holds

BEIRUT, Sept. 27. (AP) Christian leader Gen. Michel Aoun was reported today to have told Christian parliamentarians to oppose political reforms proposed by the Arab League in a peace plan until Syria agrees to withdraw its forces from Lebanon.

But, in what was shaping up to be a major deadlock that could stymie the peace effort, Beirut dailies quoted Syrian Vice-President Syrian soldier will leave his position in Lebanon before political reforms are achieved.

A Christian source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Aoun had "passed the message to several parliamentary deputies" and a flurry of meetings between Christian and Muslim military leaders and legislators in advance of a special session of Lebanon Parliament in Saudi Arabia on Saturday to discuss reforms and a "national reconciliation charter."

The pro-Syrian Ash Shariq daily accused Aoun of "obstructing the peace process by bringing pressure to bear on legislators not to attend the meeting in Saudi Arabia."

Aoun was also scheduled to preside over a meeting of Christian legislators later today to formulate what the independent An Nahar daily described as a "unified Christian stand" at the Saudi Arabian session.

A Sunni Muslim parliamentarian, speaking on condition of anonymity, alleged Aoun wanted to "do his best to prevent a parliamentary quorum in Saudi Arabia because he fears that legislators might elect a president there."

Two-thirds of the 73 parliamentarians constitutes a quorum, which is needed to elect a president. In Damascus, Syrian Vice-President Khaddaf held talks with Muslim legislators and a pro-Syrian Christian deputy, Michel Daher, who was Syria's candidate to succeed former president Amin Gemayel last year.

Syrian officials referred to Daher as the "Lebanese presidential candidate." That indicated they may present him again if the legislators make headway in Saudi Arabia, a move that could provoke right-wing Christians who opposed him last year.

Showering of cash banned

BAGHDAD, Sept. 27. (Reuters) Iraq has banned night club patrons from throwing their cash around. It says the custom humiliates the national currency.

Baghdad newspapers said the interior ministry warned of harsh punishment against anyone who threw money at dancers and other entertainers.

Police had been ordered to keep watch on clubs and cabarets and arrest those "who practice such deviated discipline," the papers said, adding that the ministry would close venues which flouted the new rules.

"Such practices stand counter to public morals and manners, humiliate national Iraqi currency and harass feelings of other people," the papers quoted the ministry as saying.

Clemency for Sudan bombers may be sought

LONDON, Sept. 27. (Reuters) Relatives of five Britons killed in terror attacks in Sudan indicated on Wednesday they would ask for death sentences against five convicted Palestinians to be commuted.

Sudan's Supreme Court asked the relatives yesterday to make the final judgement after changing death sentence on the five men to a section of law which gives victim's relations the power to decide the fate of murderers.

Under the legal clause, relatives of the dead can insist that killer be executed, pardon them or demand blood money in return for their lives.

The two British families whose relatives died in machinegun and grenade attacks on a Khartoum hotel and club in May 1988 are expected to meet to discuss the matter although they told reporters the Sudanese had not yet formally approached them.

Afghan rebels left in the lurch

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27. (AP) Afghanistan's anti-communist mujahedeen, disappointed that US-supplied munitions dwindled after Soviet forces left their country, wonder if Americans have lost interest in backing them to victory in their freedom struggle, according to a rebel commander.

"I am sorry to say some kind of mistrust has arisen," Brigadier Rahmatullah Safi said yesterday. He said the feeling now among the mujahedeen is that "Americans are very good people, but they leave you in the middle of the road ... instead of showing friendship to the end."

"The end of the road" for the mujahedeen and several million Afghan refugees in neighbouring countries will be victory in the form of a legal Muslim government acceptable to the people of Afghanistan to replace President Najib's communists ruling in Kabul, he said.

Interruption of US ammunition and weapons supplies as the Soviets beamed up the Kremlin-installed Afghan government in Kabul caused military setbacks and loss of confidence, he said.

But "at the moment there is no problem in the supply ... we are satisfied with the continuation," said Safi, visiting Washington for talks with US officials.

He is currently head of intelligence for the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, one of the more moderate of seven rebel groups trying to achieve unity under the framework of the US-backed Afghan interim government. The US government has said it will back the interim government in efforts to oust the Najib government while also searching for a political solution.

On early US visits, while his homeland was still occupied by the Red Army, "we were met by congressmen, rich people, who would take you to their private homes, doctors for our wounded," he recalled. Today, he said, "there is still fighting in Afghanistan ... there are lots of wounded, but no doctors interested, no hospitals. As for Najib, 'he will not survive,' said Safi.

It was unrealistic, however, for US officials to predict Najib's quick collapse in Kabul, or seizure by the mujahedeen of the town of Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan, he said. "It is foolish to give a timetable. General Eisenhower, General Montgomery never gave timetables," he said, naming successful US and British commanders of World War II.

Meanwhile, in an effort to break stalemate in Afghan issue, Indian Foreign Secretary S.K. Singh had a meeting with the leaders of the mujahedeen groups based in Tehran. He is understood to have discussed with them political situation in the war-torn Afghanistan.

Singh, who returned from Tehran yesterday after meeting President Hashemi Rafsanjani and other Iranian leaders sought support of Afghan Mujahedeen in solving the contentious problem.

Eleven leaders of the eight Iran-based Afghan rebel groups, who differ with Peshawar-based groups, have sought India's support for their concept of freedom for Afghanistan.

The Indian foreign secretary told the mujahedeen leaders that India is not in favour of outside interference in the affairs of Afghanistan.

Rabbo allowed US visit Arafat shall seek visa

TUNIS, Sept. 27. (Reuters) The PLO is even more determined to seek a US visa for its chairman Yasser Arafat after a demand by US congressmen to bar him from the United States, a Palestinian leader said today.

On Tuesday 68 Senators and 44 members of the House of Representatives asked Secretary of State James Baker not to let Arafat pass through the United States on his way to address the UN General Assembly.

Salah Khalaf, Arafat's deputy in the mainstream Fatah movement, told Reuters in an interview, "We consider this a hostile position, a position which is not at all impartial, a position which shows the complete bias towards Israel."

"In fact it makes us more determined to make a visa application and the United States will have to bear the consequences in front of the Arab world and our friends in the world."

The United States has given the head of the PLO team in the PLO-American dialogue a visa to go to the United Nations in New York for meetings of the General Assembly, his office said today.

Yasser Abed Rabbo, a member of the 15-man executive committee of the PLO, had been waiting two weeks for the visa and postponed his original travel plans because of the delay.

His office had speculated there was a political motive behind the delay and linked it to a possible visa application by Arafat, who was denied a visa last year.

A spokesman for Abed Rabbo's office said the US consulate in Tunis gave no explanation for the time taken in issuing the visa.

Arafat was denied a visa last year shortly before the US and the PLO opened their dialogue in Tunis.

The General Assembly moved its debate on Palestine to Geneva last December after the United States took the widely criticised decision to deny Arafat a visa.

Don't by-pass Shamir

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27. (Kuna) Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens criticised Egyptian President Mubarak, for by-passing Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and seeking dialogue with leaders of the Labour Party.

Mubarak will have more success in influencing a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue on peace in the occupied territories if he drops his longstanding reluctance to meet with Shamir, said Arens in an interview with the Washington Post.

At the same time, Arens warned repeatedly that neither Mubarak nor any other leader can have any influence on the Middle East peace process if they try to by-pass Shamir's hard-line views on the future of the occupied territories and deal instead with his more flexible coalition partner, the Labour Party.

Diplomatic sources told the Post that Arens, during his meeting with President Bush on Monday, urged that the United States try to persuade Mubarak to meet with Shamir to devise a plan for dealing with the territories. The sources said Arens is expected to press this argument when he meets with Secretary of State James Baker today and in talks tentatively scheduled with Baker and Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid later in the week.

"I think that if Mubarak were to sit down with Shamir and talk directly about the specific object of how we can set the stage so we can hold free and fair elections amongst the Palestinian population, there's a good chance we will reach that objective," said Arens.

Mubarak's plan has drawn a generally positive response from Labour Party leaders and is regarded within the Bush administration as a promising way to get the peace process moving.

Khalaf, better known by his nom de guerre Abu Iyad, said it was too early to say if the PLO would try to move the session again if Baker refused Arafat a visa.

"We're not saying that now. At this stage we're just saying we want to express the attitude of the United States to world public opinion and Arab public opinion," he said.

Back PLO, US urged

ACC ratifies 16 accords

SANAA, Sept. 27. (AP) Leaders of Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen ended a two-day summit yesterday by calling on United States to back clearly a Palestinian right to self-determination.

The Palestinian problem was in the foreground of the deliberations of President Hosni Mubarak, King Hussein, President Saddam Hussein and President Ali Abdullah Saleh during the third summit of their six-month-old Arab Co-operation Council alliance.

Underlining the interest was the unscheduled participation of Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasser Arafat in the second day of the summit.

A joint communiqué summing up the deliberations expressed the ACC's "unwavering and continuous support" for the intifada, the 21-month-old uprising by the Palestinians under Israeli occupation, and for a Palestinian "full right to sovereignty and independence."

The communiqué said any decision taken by the PLO leadership toward that end would receive the backing of the

ACC, implicitly expressing support for Arafat if he entered into direct peace negotiations with Israel as envisaged in a 10-point peace plan formulated by Mubarak.

But the communiqué specified the international peace conference as the forum for a final Arab-Israeli settlement, expressing the ACC leaders' "hope that the US administration take a more positive stance, and a clearer one, on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination preparatory to convening an international peace conference on clear bases that would guarantee its success, as the entire international community desires."

The international conference proposal has been backed by the entire Arab world, while Mubarak's plan was only recently circulated as a means of giving momentum to the Middle East peacemaking process.

The plan, based on the principle of trading land for peace, has yet to receive the PLO's own outright support and it has likewise received divided reaction from Israel.

The ACC leaders also discussed the Lebanese issue and the stalemate Iraq-Iran UN-sponsored talks to turn a year-old cease-fire into a lasting peace.

But the communiqué referred to the necessity of the pullout of "non-Lebanese forces" from Lebanon, while expressing support for the Arab Tripartite Committee of Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria in its efforts to end the country's 14-year-old civil war.

The accords enhance cooperation in the following fields:

- Agriculture and irrigation, industry, labour, housing and construction.
- Strategies for imports and exports and expanding trade exchanges.
- Communications and transport including maritime transport.
- Culture, information, education and health.
- Crime-fighting including drug abuse and smuggling, counterfeiting and financial crimes.
- Justice and Islamic endowments.
- Financial and fiscal matters.

Step towards normal ties

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Sept. 27. (Reuters) Israel and the Soviet Union are to exchange trade offices in what an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman called a small step towards normalising diplomatic relations.

Soviet representatives in Paris yesterday initiated an agreement with the president of Israel's Chamber of Commerce, a private body, to set up trade offices in Moscow and Tel Aviv. The agreement will be formally signed in November.

Israeli officials played down the significance of the step, which follows the exchange of consular missions begun in 1987.

"It is not an agreement between the two governments," Foreign Ministry spokesman Moti Amirai said.

Moscow cut ties with Israel after the 1967 Middle East war.

Chamber of Commerce president Danny Gillerman told the Jerusalem Post that Moscow preferred to deal with non-governmental Israeli institutions because of diplomatic sensitivity.

Under President Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet Union is gradually restoring links with the Jewish state in a bid to play a peace-making role in the Middle East. The United States is Israel's closest ally.



Playing with fire

A 10-year-old boy, plays with shrapnel of exploded shells in West Beirut. Arab peace efforts have succeeded to halt six months of bloodshed in Lebanon. (Reuters wirephoto)

هكذا من الأعمال

Arab Times world exclusive

KHASHOGGI

The man — the moment



Ahmed Al Jarallah with Adnan Khashoggi in his Olympic ... 'Palace'.

Interview by Ahmed Al Jarallah

IF MONEY means authority and ultimate power, and it is generally believed so, nothing like what has happened and is transpiring presently would have occurred to Adnan Khashoggi, the billionaire. You have been there, incarcerated with others who have been accused of committing crimes and kept behind bars.

Your story is a real epic saga — Adnan! At the time when the general consensus was that money is the ultimate peace and tranquility, we witnessed armed officials raiding your luxurious rooms and jostling you around your quarters. What actually happened Adnan? When we thought that in placing yourself behind "fences piled with money" you were inaccessible to all, from behind your seemingly impenetrable fences, you were arrested and lost your freedom.

With this backdrop, is it not worth our while to go to you wherever you are and listen to the other side of the story? We believe, it does and with this objective, I travelled to New York to meet with you, speak with you and afford you the opportunity to provide the world a different face. The face of a true human being who fears, becomes desperate, becomes sad, happy, is arrested, jailed and is brought to trial — exactly like other human beings.

In New York, the atmosphere was different. In this not common metropolis, full of buildings and human beings, running after money and happiness, the temperature was so high that I felt that I was still in Kuwait. The weather was very humid — just like in any of the Gulf states. But, I was soon relieved of this inconvenience, when I entered the high "roof" of Adnan Khashoggi. Everything in the roof was totally different, contrary to everything in New York. The atmosphere was quiet, although the place is in the heart of the din and noise of machines at work which characterises the city. The roof is in itself a different story. I imagined myself living an adventure — very difficult to forget.

The value of the roof alone is \$40 million, and the value of the articles within like furniture, carpets, paintings and others is perhaps more than that.

Roof

Khashoggi bought this double-storey roof 18 years ago and it is situated in the skyscraper Olympic Towers. The price he paid was \$8 million. Customers are now ready to pay \$40 million. It is certainly an eye-catching, fabulous two-storey apartment, exactly like a hanging palace. Whatever one needs, can be found in the palace. Sauna baths with thermal-resistant TV sets in addition to a full time masseur ready to answer the master's call any time. The apartment also has a small swimming pool. Servants, and they are many, sleep within — though one never knows how they come and how they go. Your clothes are washed, dried and pressed all by themselves.

It could be an exaggeration, but believe me it is a true exaggeration.

When one talks about food in Khashoggi's palace, you have to believe that it is indeed different from what our stomachs are accustomed to. At Khashoggi's everything is well calculated. Salt, water, varieties of herbs and even the calories are well judged. If you do not like it this way, simply alter the ratios. I can almost swear here that even the ratio of vitamins in Khashoggi's food is calculated.

Each corner of the apartment provides you with different views of the city. One is afforded a panoramic view of New York City. I am now in the 73-74 floors of the Olympic Tower. This means that the fabulous great New York is under your feet. Everything in New York is within your sight and senses. At this great height, you are in New York and then again, not really in New York at the same time. The air in the apartment is very different. It is cool and very pure.

But then, how does one get to this paradise? At the Olympic Tower gate, guards ask where you intend to go? To Khashoggi. The security apparatus goes into operation and soon a man arrives to accompany you. Do not ask what happens to you when you knock on the doors of the palace. Many people rush forward to receive you. If you are a guest, you will be taken to your room; if you are a visitor, to the saloon and to the meeting hall if you are a businessman. Hospitality here is a different empire.

At last, the emperor was standing in front of me, welcoming me in his traditional manner of hospitality. I soon began the game. The play of the journalist, looking to uncover the secrets of an extraordinary man. Realising the interests of the readers and the hundreds of questions in their minds, ideas began to flood my entire thinking process.

Issues

It did not take long and I asked him: "Tell us Adnan what really are the issues?"

"One day a friend came to me complaining of a financial problem he was facing. He told me that he was unable to sleep because he took a loan of \$100,000 from the bank and was now unable to repay it. I told him: You have been mistaken my friend — very mistaken. You should have borrowed \$1 million instead of \$100,000, because had you done that, the bank would have been unable to sleep and not you! In this scenario, the bank would have been worried about you and not vice-versa. The bank would have ensured to follow up on your health conditions. He added: 'My brother, let yourself become an issue for the people and not the people an issue for yourself.'"

Thus, Adnan began with me his story in a bid to sail me in the deep waters. He told me that he is an issue for the people and people do not constitute an issue for him. What he does is entirely for himself and does not harm

anyone. As long as he does not harm any one, all what is said about him, including the rumours come under the categorisation of "envy against him." In this context, he told me that when the mother of any of us wants to pray for us, she simply opens her hand, raises them toward the sky and simply says: "My son, may God increase the number of people that envy you." This means that when those who envy you are too many, you are an important person. This is a vital line of thought for Adnan.

While going around the apartment-palace, I commented that while in the apartment, one did not feel New York's humidity and noise — not even the concerns of its people. Food is served at fixed times. Breakfast at 8.00 am, lunch at 1.30 pm and dinner is taken at an ultra-modern restaurant in New York with advance booking and accompanied by a favourite guest.

Prison

"Adnan... Tell us about the prison episode — undoubtedly it is a 'landmark' committed against you."

He said that one of the redeeming features of the prison was that he lost between 15-20 kgs of weight. However, he added: "I have now begun to restore it — despite my repeated attempts not to eat too much. But this duty is difficult for me to accomplish." He went on to say: "Hospitality protocols compel me to share with friends and this compels me to 'open my appetite.' There is no other alternative, except hard exercise to preserve my good looking body," he commented.

Again we commenced walking in the apartment and I noticed that Adnan's spirits were really high — although four months ago, he was the main gossip of the whole world. Adnan begins his day at 9 in the morning surrounded by a group of his advisers at his office to begin the so-called "dealing and wheeling" operations.

Suddenly, Adnan expounded — "In the past, my annual income was in the vicinity of \$80 million. I was living with all my men a very luxurious life and despite that I never spent more than a quarter of my income. However, what can one do when rumours about spendings surpass reality. But he added: "The penny of Khashoggi rings loud because I am Khashoggi. Others drop their penny on carpets and no one hears its sound, but my penny falls on marble. Thus when I spend this penny, its sound is heard like a thunder-clap."

"All this noise around me is mainly attributed to the fact that my life is open and is focussed as an issue by the media for the people," Adnan said and added that he never intended to open up his life as an issue to the public.

Basically, he commented, he felt he was the only Arab in the world who could gather this large number of friends — both in quality and quantity. "I consider myself a first class public relations man," Khashoggi said.

He continued... "Listen Ahmed... I have played many important political and economic roles that I am proud of. My dream was to build a bridge between the Arab world and advanced technology. I was dreaming of transferring Western industries to the Arab world. This was my dream and I was the first to establish industries like the gypsum industry. I wanted to construct the bridge and wanted to utilise my relations with the world for the benefit of the Arab world. Amongst the many important political roles I have played, some of them have already been uncovered — several remain still unknown."

Friends

Querying him further, I asked, "Who are your friends Adnan, are they economists or politicians?"

"Most of my friends are economists, though I do have a few political friends. I am not really attracted to them, but respect and do meet with them. But, they are certainly the least among my friends. He paused for a moment and continued... I used politics for the service of money." Elucidating he said: "I told concerned politicians that is not in the public interest to separate South Sudan from its North and it is not in the public interest to have tense relations between the two parts. I told them that the interest of the South (Sudan) is to be in harmony with the North — because as the South revolted against the North, the North will one day revolt against the South when it progresses. My words reached South of Sudan. In this way, my political game was used to serve my people — the Arabs."

On the Iranian issue, Adnan commented that he desired that open-thinking and moderates overcome backward hardliners. But, regrettably, the US administration erred in the Iran issue. "Incidentally," he said, "I was acquitted from all charges in this case. I spent substantial funds from my own pocket on issues which I firmly believed would serve the cause of moderation in Iran — a scenario we badly needed. If some areas become quiet and stable, economy progresses and in this respect there is some moral that we can discern and benefit from as businessmen," Khashoggi said.

Arms

I did not spend much time evaluating his replies and queried: "Adnan you are an arms merchant, you provide the warring sides with the means that enables them to kill and destroy."

To me, it appeared that Adnan did not realise, or simply ignored the depth of the question as he quickly commented.

"I have never been an arms merchant dispensing destructive items like bombs, ammunition explosives and others that kill and destroy. Simply stated, I am an agent of companies that produce aircrafts and defence equipments which are primarily intended to strengthen the national defences of various

countries. I have never been an arms dealer in the true sense of the word.

"Ahmed, stability sometimes serves my interests more. When you asked me about my relations with politicians, I told you that my relations with businessmen and economists are stronger and more widespread, simply because I benefit from them. What I do have are good international relations that the Arab world can invest and benefit from."

Diversification in the dialogue coincided with the diversification in the place where we stood. This relieved the interview from the routine that usually accompanies press interviews. Amusement is the only true expression that can exactly reflect my condition in dealing with a man of this nature and stature.

I soon posed my next question and asked: "But Adnan, with all that you have and enjoy, did you ever one day expect that two men would call on you to arrest and take you to prison? This is an extraordinary violation of all norms accorded personalities and traditionally people like yourself who wield considerable influence."

He was slightly taken aback by this question and said: "I swear by God that I had never expected this to happen. The thought never crossed my mind nor did I in my wildest imagination expect that matters would take such a turn."

"The wheel of my life was revolving normally — activities both pleasurable and happy. I was comfortable, utilising my friendship in the world, living in luxury and happiness, reading what people say and write about me, spend lighter moments with my friends and practice the dealing and wheeling operations, but above all always adding to the list of influential friends in the world."

"However, it never occurred to me that I would one day wake up in prison. Though, this episode did not overly disturb me... They did not take me to prison as a drug dealer or a criminal or a murderer. They jailed me on a commercial case. I am convinced that all this introduction is not important, since the case is now in the jurisdiction of American courts. And when it reaches there, any attempt to play becomes impossible."

"In the past, I faced very sensational cases — some worth over \$350 million. For example, a case against Northrop, another against Lockheed and several others. I won all those cases when they were referred to the American Supreme Court. On this occasion, I am happy to inform you that I received a part of the \$350 million very recently."

"From my experience, it is impossible to try to play with or alter the American judicial system. Perhaps, I am the first Arab to win cases related to such huge financial stakes through the American courts. This clearly indicated that laws in the United States cannot be altered when cases are cut-and-dried."

"I was taken to prison in Switzerland. I face

charges which if proved could keep me in jail for 60 years. However, now, all those cases have been reduced to only three, and if proven I could end up spending five years in jail. But, I am still confident that I am innocent. As you see all the charges against me are commercial."

Standards

"Adnan didn't you get scared in jail? How was life in the cell?"

Adnan smiled, but was again shaken and quickly said: "I am accustomed to staying in magnificent suites and I mean really magnificent. Personally, I love to live an uncommonly high standard of life because I can afford it and as long as I can afford the life style, why not live it. In prison, things are different. Instead of the magnificent suite, there is a small room. Though life there is also totally different, I quickly adapted to the prison lifestyle within a period of three days."

"Naturally, there are no telephones in jail and thus there are no contacts. There was only a small room, with a copy of the Holy Quran, where I usually recited the verses. In jail, I prayed five times a day and it afforded me the opportunity of remembering memories of my life. Among those memories, there is this young student who they called Adnan and who traded in cars and they code-named him 'Mr Five Per Cent.' Believe me Ahmed, that news of 'Mr Five Per Cent' made many companies request to deal with me."

"Ahmed, I am not at all a bad man, but I hate to publish details. I like to live my own life, even though there are people who oppose the open luxurious life that has become so much a part of me. But, then, it is costly for them to maintain such a lifestyle. But as I told you before 'Khashoggi's penny rings loud.'"

"Ah! on the issue of jail. Well, it is a small room where I go to bed early. The Swiss behaved nicely and were good to me. After three days behind bars, I began enjoying my life and practiced sports. I spent 99 days in captivity. Just look at this luck coincidence — it equals the number of glorified names of Allah — whom I remembered in the night of my loneliness."

"I came here to the US to solve my problems. Inside the prison in the USA, I met a Muslim Nigerian prisoner aged 25. I will talk about him later. This man is sentenced to 25 years in jail and faces another charge that would keep him confined to another 45 years of captivity. I found him very sad and dejected — not because of his 25 years of prison sentence, but because of what he told me."

"He said that he was very keen on performing haj (pilgrimage) and is constantly worried that he may die without doing so due to his long jail term."

"In jail, Ahmed, I saw many problems — in the Swiss and US jails."

(Continued on Page 15)

2,000 new cases of gonorrhea in Kuwait last year

Lack of sex education cause of spread: Qashlan

DR. IBRAHIM AL Qashlan, head of the Family Planning Division at the Public Health Ministry has said that more than 2,000 new cases of gonorrhea were discovered in Kuwait during 1988 along with a similar number of other cases involving pus-oozing inflammations with symptoms analogous to gonorrhea; however it is less severe but takes a longer time to treat.

He told a local daily that following each seasonal vacation there was an expected outbreak of venereal diseases, as more than 70% of the total infections were contracted outside Kuwait involving category of patients aged between 20 to 29 years. Herpes is most

ly contracted by people whose ages vary between 25 to 34, with the percentage of herpes patients increasing slightly each year.

He said that a very limited number of venereal diseases were contracted by women, who would have most often contracted the disease from their husbands, and were under treatment in private clinics.

He pointed out that the Family Planning Division provided social and medical services to all patients in Kuwait no matter where they lived, and that among these services was examining men for impotency and guide patients into what to do in this respect as well as performing tests

aimed at discovering gonorrhea, syphilis, urinary tract inflammations, and herpes.

Patients would be closely monitored during treatment until total recovery and disappearance of the disease symptoms, and would be given instructions on the need to avoid passing the infection to the healthy, Qashlan said.

He also said that the division offered pre-marital tests to ensure the absence of any hereditary or other diseases that would prevent couples from leading a safe, disease-free married life, and that it would also test dermatological diseases caused by venereal cases, sexual disorders and others. The number of premarital tests performed by the division last year included 435 citizens, and 292 residents.

Qashlan blamed the lack of sexual education for the spread of sexual diseases, including erroneous child-raising patterns, forced marriages, lack of sexual constraints and over-indulgence, as well as frequent travel.

He added that other reasons for the spread of sexual diseases was the absence of sexual awareness, reluctance to come forward for treatment, failure to report the condition to doctors, and the availability of contraceptives which created the right atmosphere for quick contraction of infections.

He pointed out that patients might

not experience any symptoms shortly after getting the disease, however it had been clear from medical evidence that 20 per cent males and 80 per cent females had gonorrhea but experienced no symptoms although they had the ability to transmit the disease to others.

The direct and primary reason for passing on the infection to another person is via sexual intercourse, use of unclean injection needles by junkies, which in certain cases might involve the contraction of AIDS, syphilis, infectious hepatitis (hepatitis A), which an expectant mother could pass to her baby, or through transfusions involving infected blood.

Qashlan attached great importance to sexual cleanliness and commitment to religious teachings, as a surefire way to avoid falling prey to such terrible diseases, pointing out that regular check-ups and early reporting and detection of the condition could increase chances of speedy recovery.

He pointed out that the incubation period of sexual diseases varied considerably and that the associated symptoms could emerge days after contracting the infection, weeks or even longer than that depending on the type of the disease.

He said the incubation period for gonorrhea ranges from 1-5 days, and that of other venereal inflammation

from two to four weeks, while the incubation for herpes took 3-10 days.

He added that the disease could turn chronic if the patient failed to report it or get medical attention in time, or did not use the right medication. He stressed that failure to abide by the doctor's instructions on the need to change sexual behaviour, cleanliness patterns, or stop drinking alcohol during treatment could only make things worse and make the treatment time longer.

He urged all patients to tear down the barrier of self-consciousness and refrain from resorting to friends' counsels and report the cases to a specialist in order to start on right and efficient treatment programme.

Anti-smoking programme for teenagers imminent

34 per cent college girls smoke

KUWAIT is ranked as the second highest consumers of cigarettes in the world, a recent survey conducted by the Kuwait Anti-Smoking and Cancer Society said. This has resulted in an increase in the number of lung cancer cases among both sexes, Chairman of the Society, Dr Hussain Al Mumin said. A field study conducted on school students showed that 44.8 per cent of school boys had tried smoking and that another 7 per cent were in the experimental stages. The study said that 11 per cent of school girls said they saw parents smoking while 23 per cent said cigarette smoking is "haram" prohibited and a serious health hazard. The study also found that 84 per cent of students whose fathers smoke, were smokers too, this percentage increased to 94 per cent.

Mumin said that the study found that Kuwait has the youngest smoker in the world a six-year-old boy who was seen smoking. Moreover the field study also found that 34 per cent of Kuwait University students were smokers.

Mumin stressed on the importance of facing the problem of the widespread smoking habit among youths.

Specialists the world over give special care and attention to this problem and rightly so, as youths comprise the most important section of the society the official said. He called for launching well organised programmes to solve the problem of smoking among youngsters. Any anti-smoking programmes directed among teenagers must first concentrate on the preventive aspect of the issue because prevention is much more effective than cure. Youths must be made well aware of the dangers and hazards of smoking in order to convince them not to initially start smoking. He stressed that media campaigns must act to negate the impression among youngsters that smoking is a mark of civilisation, growth and maturity and awareness campaign must also help smokers to realise the dangers of smoking and get rid of this bad habit. Mumin said that providing suitable activities to youths, will curtail the opportunities for smoking. He stressed that the presence of good examples set by the father or the teacher to teenagers will positively contribute to youths not taking up this habit forming an unhealthy vice. He said that studies showed that most teenagers who smoke have fathers who smoke and in most cases the character and personality of the fathers is weak.

He emphasised the important role the media can play in this respect and commented that media can greatly affect and influence teenagers in their behaviour and directives. He

said that a clear strategy for youths should be the co-ordination of activities by all institutions related to youths.

Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour Assistant Undersecretary for Youth Affairs, Abdul Rahman Al Mazroui stressed the important role parents, especially fathers can play in guiding their children.

He said that studies showed that 48.9 per cent of the sons of illiterates were smokers and that 31.9 per cent of children of those who only read and write were also smokers. This clearly shows that fathers who have a higher degree of education can more properly guide their children to do the right thing, while illiterates or fathers of sub-standard education do not have the proper means to guide their children. Mazroui said that the study found no teenager smoking in the sample taken, among those whose fathers were university graduates.

The study found that 79.9 per cent of young smokers' fathers were alive while the remaining 20.1 per cent had lost their fathers. He said that the only interpretation for this is that young children with their fathers living have the opportunity to get more pocket money than others in most cases.

In the first case, young children are thus indirectly encouraged to buy cigarettes because of the availability of spare pocket money.

Mazroui said that the study also showed that smoking habit

increases among families with larger number of children. It said that the study found that 50.9 per cent of the young smokers belonged to families consisting of 9 and more members. They were closely followed by families with 7-8 members with 25.4 per cent and families with 5-6 members, 20.3 per cent. He said that this clearly shows that the increase in the number of the families, reduces the control of parents of their children. Mazroui admitted that the study showed that 78 per cent of the activities groups in the Youth Centres of the Ministry of Social Affairs smoke. He said that the only interpretation for this phenomenon is that the gathering of young people of the same age groups, encourage other members to acquire the smoking habit.

Mazroui said that the study showed that the maximum number of smoking students are in the intermediate stage, from 5th to 8th standard. He said that it was found that 49.1 per cent of smokers sampled were in the intermediate stage. The usual age group in this stage is between 10 to 14 years. 37.3 per cent of the student smokers come from the secondary stage with age group ranging from 15-18 years. While 11.9 per cent of the smokers in the sample said they had completed the intermediate stage. Few students from the primary stage (age group from 6-10 years) said they were smokers. Mazroui attributed this to the fact that primary students are still too young to smoke. High smoking rates among the students in the

intermediate and secondary stages is attributed to their desire to appear grown-up and emulate those whom they hold in esteem.

Mazroui said that the main reasons for smoking among youngsters are usually the tendency to prove one's manhood, express himself, attract the attention of others or imitate their fathers, teachers and doctors. Young smokers usually become more ready to get rid of the smoking habit when their fathers are non-smokers.

A well known Islamic scholar, Dr Ajil Al Nashmi said that Muslim scholars have given different opinions towards smoking. He said that some Muslim scholars have totally prohibited smoking and considered it as "Haram," while others said it was not so and allowed it. He said that there is no text in the Holy Quran or the Prophet's Hadith that clearly banned cigarettes. But he added that majority of Muslim scholars have pointed out that cigarette smoking is "haram" and in Islam it is better to leave hated things rather than use or eat them.

In all cases, smoking in mosques is totally prohibited. Dr Khaled Al Mathkour of Kuwait University also gave the same opinion, but pointed out its hazards. He proposed launching extensive awareness campaigns against cigarette smoking and banning it in transportation vehicles like planes. He also called for banning it in public places and also to ban its advertisement in the press.



Gli Amici at the Sheraton

The Kuwait Sheraton Hotel's exclusive "Al Hamba" Rooftop Restaurant renowned for its superb view and culinary dining experience offers now an additional attraction, "Gli Amici," the famous Lebanese band who will perform every evening.

With their wide and versatile repertoire band leader Jose, singer Maha and band members Andre, Roge and Tony will certainly create the right atmosphere for an enchanting evening out.

The "Gli Amici" band is not the only surprise the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel is preparing for its distinguished guests this coming season.

Law to promote nurseries hoped for

CHILD care nurseries are a vital element to the essential services provided in any civilised country, a leading Kuwaiti official said and added that it is her fervent hope that a law will be promulgated compelling establishments with over 30 female staff members to establish their own nurseries.

Louwa Al Qatani, head of the Cultural and Social Women's Society, speaking on this issue commented that almost half of the Kuwaiti society comprises of women and that in such a highly developed state as Kuwait, women cannot be dispensed from the employment scene because of a lack of child care.

Speaking on the Bustan nursery objectives, Louwa who is also in charge of the activities of the nursery, indicated that the nursery was established to assist both mothers and families without the thought of any monetary motive. She pointed out that the nursery charges KD30 per child — not including transportation facilities.

Problems

The official commented that parents should be responsible for taking and receiving their children to and from the nursery. This will also provide officials of the nursery to meet with parents on a constant basis and discuss any problems their children might be encountering. Such nurseries will also reduce the need for relying on housemaids.

With respect to nursery teachers qualifications and implemented educational policy, she said that all teachers should at least have completed their general secondary education and added that the majority of teachers at the nursery are college graduates.

Louwa said that Kuwait is one of the leading countries in the field of child care. However, she advocated that more efforts be expended on the childhood stage than at later stages. She added that in advanced countries, a large part of government expenditure is allocated to children's care and education.

Judicial co-op

A RESPONSIBLE source at the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs has hailed the judicial co-operation between Kuwait and Egypt that is embodied in the protocol signed by the two ministries of justice on May 26, 1988.

He added that this co-operation is being developed day by day. A delegation of Kuwaiti prosecutors will join a training course (the second course for Kuwaitis being held in Egypt) at the National Centre for Judicial Studies of the Egyptian Ministry of Justice.

The assistant undersecretary of Justice for Legal and Planning Affairs met members of the delegation (15 prosecutors) on their departure to Cairo to join the course.



Municipal farewell

Kuwait's Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Mohammed Al Sayed Abdulmohsen Al Rifai patronised a celebration in honour of the outgoing Municipal Affairs Committee members.

The celebration ceremony was attended by a number of ministers including the Minister of Interior Sheikh Salem Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah, Minister of Defence Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah, Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed Al Sabah, the Minister of Communication Abdullah Al Shahrhan, acting Director General at Kuwait Municipality Sheikh Sabah Al Jaber Al Ali and the Municipality's Chief Engineer Fahed Al Hasawi in addition to a number of senior

officials and personalities.

Rifai thanked the outgoing members for their efforts during the past years and called on the new members to benefit from the experience of their predecessors.

Sheikh Nasser said Al Sabah made a speech on behalf of the outgoing Municipal Affairs Committee members in which he thanked the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Mohammed Sayed Abdulmohsen Al Rifai and the municipality acting Director General Sheikh Sabah Al Jaber Al Ali, wishing the new members every prosperity and success.

Picture shows Rifai pictured with some of the guests.

School canteen sales total KD10m annually

A SPECIAL study said that school canteens are considered the only shopping outlet for students to buy their temporary requirements. Kuwait has nearly 550 schools and more than 300,000 students who all shop at the canteens of these schools on a daily basis.

It is possible to estimate school canteens sales at nearly KD10 million annually according to the average student buying rate valued at 250 fils daily. The estimated number of students at 300,000, the number of times a student buys from these canteens per month equalling 22 times excluding Thursdays and Fridays, and the number of months in one academic year starting from September and ending June excluding the spring holiday, and the Holy Month of Ramadan.

The operation of school canteens may take place through several ways. One, is that the school administration concludes an agreement with one of the contractors (usually a catering company) to provide the school with foodstuff requirements. Another, is through national companies which provide schools with their products such as beverages and pastries.

The question here is, who takes over the purchasing operation is it the head principal, secretary or one of the teachers and do those play an educational or a commercial role? How do profits get distributed?

The study indicated that some of the foodstuff sold at these can-

teens, like beverages and cold drinks are sold for 100 fils to students and that the cost of one beverage is 55 fils meaning that more than 80 per cent in profits is gained only by selling beverages. The study added that some students come from middle class or poor families and cannot afford buying at such high prices. Most of the price quotations are put up by the school administration.

It said that depositing the canteen sales money in a money-box at the head principal's room is not a very adequate method for the fact that head principals should carry out educational and administrative duties not commercial administration.

However, since a number of schools spend profit money on some school requirements during educational occasions like the science day or others, this can be justified. On the other hand, when profits are applied for other purposes, there is a conflict of interest with the school role, due to the fact that most co-operative societies allocate spendings for schools at their area under the social assistance article. Such spending allocated by co-operative societies are meant to cover expenditures of some school activities or by presenting schools with food stuff and other products.

Censorship on foodstuff sold at these canteens should be conducted by municipality inspectors on a regular basis for the protection of students' health, the study stressed. Other censorship should be applied on prices offered to students, and should indicate a maximum 20 per cent profit from cost value.

Schools are able to utilise two types of sandwiches. One is the mixed cooked type which should not exceed 80 fils, the second is a canned food sandwich filled with jam and butter which should be sold at 50 fils maximum, the study proposed.

Regarding money collected from students on the excuse of

supplying the canteen, some schools require each of the students to pay KD1,000 to be able to hold a share. Schools would distribute KD1,000 for each student share holder at the end of the school year. The study stressed that only KD1,000 is unfair to a student due to the fact that a canteen gains nearly KD6,000 in profit each year per student. It added that student share holders should obtain higher profits per share.

The study suggested that co-operative societies should manage school canteens according to areas these schools fall under. This step will ensure limited prices on the condition that all profits should go to the schools' administrations and bonuses should be distributed to canteen managers at the end of each academic year.

The second resolution proposed by the study is establishing school societies (supermarkets) at each educational area which will take over canteen management.

The third resolution stated the possibility of employing co-operative division graduates attached to commercial colleges in these posts to take over canteen management.

In each of the three resolutions, Kuwait Municipality should supervise the process of catering administration particularly from the point of health.

The study indicated that concluding an agreement with a single catering contractor to take over the responsibility of preparing and selling food at schools has positive and negative sides. On the positive side, this will allow the educational staff to be loyal to educational matters, in addition to receiving a fixed monthly income not considering the amount of sales. Meanwhile, the negative sides of the proposed resolution is that most catering contractors may only seek financial benefits not paying attention to health matters. This may affect the nutritious quality of the food.

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Amir ends Paris trip

HH the Amir yesterday ended his trip to France. Picture above (left) shows HH the Amir saying farewell and (centre) with French President Francois Mitterrand and (right) at a banquet hosted in his honour.



Kuwaiti dailies laud Amir's Paris speech

Call to recognise Palestinian state

KUWAIT, Sept 27 (Kuna): Two Kuwaiti English-language newspapers today commended HH the Amir's speech at a Paris dinner banquet Monday and agreed that the address deftly mirrored Kuwait's policies and standing on international issues.

One daily, in an editorial, highlighted the Amir's call for constructive dialogue between the Western and Islamic civilisations and the call on France, current chairman of the European Economic Community, to enlist EEC support for the just Palestinian cause.

The paper also heaped praise on the

Amir's "Debt Relief" crusade and said "there could not be a better place than Paris to say what the Amir said."

The daily, underscoring the Amir's call on France to get more actively involved in search for peace in the Middle East, said: "A leader like Mitterrand should be in a position to generate the required pressure of public opinion in Europe and outside to help break the evil status quo" in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza and help speed up the peace process in the region.

Another daily, applauded the Amir's speech, saying it reflected "an all-encom-

passing thought."

It added in an editorial that the ideas contained in the address were of international appeal and went beyond the boundaries of certain groups or sects.

The paper pinpointed the diversity of the ideas His Highness the Amir brought up in his speech and said the Amir was in France "not to display the wealth of Kuwait, but to explain its proposals and thoughts on what we want from ourselves and likewise from the world."

Other Kuwaiti newspapers, meanwhile,

continued to give extensive coverage to the

current visit to France by His Highness the Amir, with one daily seconding the Amir's call on France to assume a larger role in helping to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"France can play a more positive role vis-a-vis the Arab Israeli conflict and brush aside its reservations on the Palestine Liberation Organisation," the paper said in an editorial.

It further suggested that France can and should recognise the new born Palestinian state and thus open the way for other European Economic Community members to do so and to pursue a more dynamic policy on the Middle East peace.

Kuwaitisation slow but sure, says Sanea

KD 1.2b spent on administration

KUWAIT is currently exerting every effort to achieve a sophisticated level of administrative development in the country which initially began in the 1950's and reached the take-off stage in 1984.

In a lecture organised by Kuwait National Students Union, London Branch, Dr Naser Jassem Al Sanea, assistant undersecretary for administrative development affairs at Kuwait Civil Service Commission (CSC) said the developing countries are faced with several problems and challenges. Primarily amongst these challenges, is the need to create a governmental policy aimed at improving the political and economic level, in addition to providing relevant states a new role designed to create the targeted comprehensive development individually suited to their needs.

He went on to state that challenges differed from one country to another and the degree of challenges faced is directly related to the country's availability of resources. He added: "It is unfair to compare Kuwait as a developing country with Tanzania in Africa or Ecuador in Latin America. Kuwait's resources are by no yardstick comparable to these countries."

Unfortunately, the official said that Kuwait is still considered a Third World country. He commented that generally speaking, most Third World countries could not provide their citizens with services needing advanced technology.

Continuing on the theme of Kuwait, Sanea said that it does not suffer from homeless people, irremediable illiteracy or inflation to speak about. Kuwait would like to see itself equated with developed countries as it strives to provide every luxury to its citizens by distributing the wealth in a manner that will be translated into justice and equality.

Returning to the theme of Kuwait's initial efforts towards developing administrative capabilities, Sanea said that the year 1984 witnessed the government's adoption of a major project and the forming of a higher committee for developing and modernising the administrative bodies under the chairmanship of HH the Crown Prince and Premier.

The relevant bodies empowered to make recommendations had clarified that employees in Kuwait lacked necessary training as only about 1 per cent of government employees had any training in 1985. Such a dismal percentage resulted in the majority of government employees being inefficient.

The official revealed that the government spent about KD1.2 billion for administrative services — as compared to public projects which amounted to only about KD600-700 million per annum.

Recommendations
The majority of members on the higher committee comprised Kuwaiti personnel and also included Arab experts who had served for extended periods of time in Kuwait and were thus possessed of first hand knowledge into the intricacies essential for the development of the administrative apparatus.

The committee had recommended, for the first time, a complete factual review of the performance and capabilities of all employees holding leading administrative posts.

The committee amongst its various recommendations, had specifically suggested a specific

period of service for all leading employees in various administrative posts. Such a recommendation required the revision of the civil service law of the country. The cabinet's decision issued in January of this year defined the period of leading posts as four years.

Additionally, the official said that the committee had initiated a new precedent when it suggested that periodical meetings be held among senior officials which should be presided over by one minister. Several such meetings have so far been held and the next is scheduled to take place next month.

Speaking of the development apparatus, the official said that it had been established in 1988 by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and had been empowered to provide the government authorities with all necessary requirements for enhancing and streamlining the administrative development process in Kuwait. This is presently being strictly adhered to as an important on-going process.

Sanea acknowledged that the administrative plan should be further augmented by undertaking informational campaigns to coincide with the concerted efforts as a measure to enlighten the public on the importance of this issue.

He disclosed that every effort is being exerted to address the issue of overlapping of functions and duties among ministries and government authorities. Recommendations in this respect, had been favourably looked upon by the cabinet and these recommendations had been endorsed. The next step is the implementation stage which is being presently addressed.

Kuwaitisation
Speaking of the Kuwaitisation process in the country, the official said that this had been propounded when the authorities concerned noted that the Kuwaiti employees were a minority compared to expatriates in the technical field. The imbalance in manpower is attributed to the Kuwaiti reluctance to go in the technical field and to the absence of the necessary plan for qualifying Kuwaitis to these posts. He disclosed that even in the administrative field, decision makers were actually non-Kuwaitis.

Although, we appreciate the efforts of the expatriates, needless to say all countries earnestly desire to see their affairs run by citizens, the official said. He added that the problem needs technical solutions rather than

general policy and these solutions should be adopted by the executive apparatus. However, the official described the Kuwaitisation process for the time being as inadequate presently, but believed it had a promising future. He said that the Kuwaitisation process had presently been adopted in the political apparatus but had to see action on the executive level.

Replying to a question over the training of the senior officials at the ministries, Sanea said that every minister had submitted a statement containing the names of senior officials at his ministry who will be subject to training courses of one year's duration to be organised by Civil Service Council in co-operation with Kuwait University and Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET).

Meanwhile, the official stressed that priority in employment will be given to Kuwaitis and no expatriate will be employed in the administrative field. Strict control will be maintained to ensure that all ministries and institutions abide by the policy.

The Kuwaiti reformative experiment is not based on any political decisions. However, obtaining these aims and objectives will entail strenuous co-ordination of all authorities. Successful meetings of senior officials suggested by the higher committee played a significant role towards the setting up of the necessary plan for developing the administrative cadre with corresponding efficiency.

He disclosed that the cabinet had issued a circular last July obliging ministries to adopt a short term plan for administrative development.

He added that 60 senior officials from the state's ministries will be involved in planning a training course to be organised in co-operation with Kuwait University (KU). The scheme is intended to create a joint language among planning officials.

An exchange of visits between Kuwait and a number of Arab and foreign countries have been planned to discuss comprehensively the administrative reform process. He disclosed that he had recently joined the International Institute for Administrative Sciences, to be better placed to understand international administrative efforts aimed at administrative development.

He disclosed that preparing an administrative development strategy for the next five years is currently underway, adding that the strategy will modernise the development efforts.

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Kuwait donated college opened

SANAA, Sept 27 (Kuna): Asst. Yemen President, Col. Ali Abdullah Saleh opened here today the Sanaa University's Medicine and Medical Sciences College on the occasion of the country's 27th anniversary, Radio Sanaa reported.

The ceremony was attended by Kuwait's Higher Education Minister, Dr Ali Al Shamlan, whose country had donated the full expenses of building that college, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council Maj. Al Khawaldil Al Hamadi.

Col Saleh, said the accompanying guests, toured various sections of the new \$26-million college then listened to a statement by Yemeni Minister of Higher Education Dr Abdul Aziz Al-Mifalal pointing out that the college was meant to meet the country's needs of medical cadres.

He praised the Kuwaiti contribution to his country, noting that the college was not the first such donation by Kuwait but rather many others had preceded in both sectors of Yemen.

He said that Kuwait was the sole supporter of the Sanaa University since its establishment in the early seventies and that the Kuwaiti board for the South was still recruiting professors and supplying scientific equipment to the university.

PAAET conference

THE director-general of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) Dr Abdul Rahman Al Mihalil has said that authority will host and organise the conference of continuous applied education on Oct 21-25. He said in a press conference held yesterday that the conference aims at studying the latest methods to develop this applied education and to introduce programmes and courses for people who cannot attend regular classes. The conference will also study the connection between programmes of applied education and needs of society and productive establishments.

He expected that the council will take a decision to offer applied education courses to the public in 1992 specially after the appearance of positive results of the comprehensive field study made by the authority.

He added that issues that will be discussed in the conference will focus on three fields: Planning, application and follow-up and evaluation. He also added that the GCC states, Jordan, Iraq, Sudan, Morocco, Tunisia, North Yemen, Libya, West Germany, UK, USA, Finland and Canada will take part in the conference through their representatives and experts.



Nawaf visits injured pilot

The Minister of Defence escorted the martyr First Lieut Meslah Mohammed Al Mtairi to his final resting place in Sulaybiyat cemetery this morning. Lieut Pilot Mtairi died on duty while performing flight practice with a helicopter.

The burial was attended by the Minister of Defence, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber, chief of staff, the undersecretary of defence, a large number of ministry officials, Army officers, and relatives.

The Ministry of Defence also visited Second Lieut Khalaf Abdul Aziz Al Shemari who was injured in the same helicopter accident while flying with the martyr. The minister wished him a quick recovery.

Package tours now popular in Bahrain

THE concept of package tours is becoming an increasingly popular trend among holidaymakers, particularly nationals, from Bahrain to a number of destinations abroad over the last few years.

In the seventies, during the period of the oil boom when people enjoyed considerably higher income than today, all classes of residents could afford to go overseas on annual holidays using their own holiday plans and itineraries without the need to depend on professional advice from the travel industry.

In those days, despite higher cost of holidays, including air fares, vacationers from Bahrain could afford to pay for expensive foreign holidays designing their own holiday packages either individually or collectively in family groups. In the eighties, however, the travel scenario underwent a dramatic change primarily because of economic factors. The general slowdown in the economic development in the region because of recession, oil crisis and the Gulf conflict among other factors led to a substantial decline in people's real income in Bahrain like its other Gulf neighbours.

Seasoned travellers have become increasingly cost-conscious about foreign vacations. Expatriates as well as nationals have been forced to look for "bargain prices" and reasonable deals in pursuit of overseas outings. The trend now is to seek the ideal holiday that includes most of the quality services and facilities as in the "good old days", but which costs less. A package tour, therefore, appears to the average traveller to be the solution. An average overseas tour based on this concept may include 2 or 3 popular destinations. Generally, a fixed amount covers the cost of return airfare, accommodation, sightseeing trips, at least one meal and transportation in the selected destinations for the travellers.

It is the work of a professional tour operator to design a holiday package suited to the needs and budget of a client. Either the client may authorise the tour operator to specifically create a tour package anywhere in the world or select a ready-made package available at the travel company's office.

According to a top travel executive of a leading tour operating company in Bahrain, more people than before are turning to package tours to go on vacation to such places as the Far East, Western Europe and America.

Abraham John, vice president of Sunshine Tours, told the Arab Times in an interview that people are now attracted to the idea of going on holiday with the aid of a package tour because apart from economical prices, the concept offers, one can also enjoy all the benefits of a good holiday abroad.

Murder probe in progress

INVESTIGATIONS into the murder case that took place in Hawally last Saturday are reportedly still in progress.

Sources close to the family of the murdered couple described information disclosed by the Public Relations Department at the Interior Ministry as inaccurate. For example, they said it was not established that the husband had actually killed his wife at their flat in Hawally.

They added that investigations further have not as yet confirmed whether the husband was out of work as alleged by the department, or on sick leave, and whether he had actually killed himself after the incident.

The family of the husband appealed to the Minister of Interior to instruct the Public Relations Department to ensure that any information and details of the incidents should be factually verified prior to being released for publication.

Anti-narcotics course

ABU DHABI, Sept 27 (Kuna): Twenty four officers from various GCC countries are participating in an advanced training course in combatting narcotics which began today and will last six weeks.

This course, the first of its kind at the level of GCC member states, comes in implementation of a decision taken by the heads of anti-narcotic divisions in the GCC during their last meeting in Bahrain's Criminal Science Institute.

The programme of the course involves a review of all agreements and protocols signed in the field of combatting nar-

Danes deny toxic on board

THE Danish embassy in Kuwait Wednesday confirmed that the reported deadly cargo of zinc oxide was not any longer on board the Pro Americana which was said to be trying to dump its load in Arabian Gulf waters.

In an urgent press release, the Regional Organisation for Protection of Marine Environment (Ropme) quoted the Danish embassy here as confirming the load of the toxic waste is still waiting in the harbour of Rotterdam.

"The load will be taken to Denmark, which has agreed to take all of it, even if not all of the waste originates from Denmark," reads the statement by the Danish embassy, distributed by Ropme.

"There is no knowledge in the Danish National Agency for Environmental Protection as to the current cargo of the ship Pro Americana which is not a Danish but a Cyprus registered ship," said the Danish embassy.

The Kuwait-based Ropme had earlier alerted its Gulf's eight member states to look out for the ship and to prevent it from docking at their ports.

The Regional Organisation for Marine Environment Protection (Ropme) based in Kuwait has announced that its investigations on the Cypriot cargo vessel Pro-Americana carrying quantities of toxic chemicals showed that these materials were taken from Danish and Italian sources.

Meanwhile, relevant authorities at the GCC ports and coastal guards departments are following up all information related to the whereabouts of the ship which is trying to get rid of its toxic cargo in the Arab Gulf waters. Coastal guards at the Gulf states are running patrols in their regional waters to hunt the ship.

In Sharjah, the director-general of borders and coastal guards of UAE Col. Sief Al-Shaafar has told the Gulf daily yesterday that the location of the ship is still undetermined.

cotics, and an evaluation of the existing size of the problem of addiction and related consequential effects.

The studies to be tackled at the course would cover areas where narcotics are grown, smuggling attempts, use and addiction, investigation techniques used with drugs convicts, modern drug-rehabilitation programmes and methods of treatment and the Unified Arab Law and Strategy on combatting narcotics.

Participating in the lectures to be given during this course will be a number of Arab and international experts in the field.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

GIVE me the ready hand rather than the ready tongue
— Giuseppe Garibaldi, Italian patriot (1807-1882).

New fighting may erupt in Cambodia

AS Vietnamese soldiers nearby packed their bags to return home, a dozen Cambodian troops were loading crates of Soviet-made mortar rounds onto a truck bound for the distant mountains.

Just down the dirt road, bare-chested Kan Jun, one of the country's tens of thousands of village militiamen, showed off his AK-47 automatic rifle and two magazines.

"All the men who can, use a gun to fight Pol Pot," he said, referring to the shadowy figure believed to lead the Khmer Rouge guerrillas.

The scene along the Tonle Sap lake in northwestern Siem Reap province appeared to be an ominous portent of Cambodia's future.

What Hanoi said were its last soldiers in Cambodia returned home Tuesday, 10 years and nine months after Vietnam invaded and installed a government to replace the ousted Khmer Rouge.

Like the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, Vietnam's purported pullout will likely improve its international standing. But the move is also likely to trigger new fighting in the country it is leaving.

Since peace talks again have failed, the Vietnamese-installed Phnom Penh government will now face guerrillas alone, as the Soviet-installed government in Kabul has done since the Red Army left Afghanistan in February.

Kabul still stands, despite widespread predictions of a quick collapse. Phnom Penh's position is even stronger, said diplomats from friendly countries, such as Ngo Dien, Vietnam's ambassador to Cambodia.

Unlike Afghanistan, Cambodia's government controls most of the country's territory, they said.

The Afghanistan resistance can recruit from 6 million refugees in neighbouring Pakistan, while the Cambodian guerrillas have only 300,000 in neighbouring Thailand.

The Afghan guerrillas also have wider international backing, and support from many people within Afghanistan. The Khmer Rouge, the largest Cambodian guerrilla group, is widely hated and cannot survive without Chinese and Thai support, which is waning.

"In the not-too-far-away future, I don't think Thailand will go on supporting the Khmer Rouge, and China also," Ngo Dien said.

The communist Khmer Rouge killed hundreds of thousands of people when it tried to implement primitive agrarian reform during a 3 and 1/2-year rule from 1975 until Vietnam ousted it in late 1978.

Just as in Afghanistan, superpowers continue supplying the means to kill. Chinese shipments continue to the guerrillas.

Soviet arms continue heading to Phnom Penh, said Soviet ambassador Rashid Khamidov, although they were not increased with Vietnam's pullout because "we don't want to escalate the war."

The Khmer Rouge siege of Pailin, near its sanctuaries in Thailand, has been compared with the Afghan guerrillas' siege of Jalalabad, near the Pakistan frontier. The Cambodian guerrilla attempt to create a "liberated zone" has intensified with Vietnam's retreat, and is seen as a crucial test of the government army's strength.

Most analysts say neither army can win in Cambodia. The key, then, will be whether there can be talks between Phnom Penh's Premier Hun Sen and guerrilla leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who heads the coalition joining his non-communist forces with the Khmer Rouge and the non-communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front.

If genuine, the Vietnamese pullout would weaken Phnom Penh military but would gain Hanoi much-needed international approval at the expense of the guerrillas.

The guerrillas call the troop movement a fake, but many diplomats believe Vietnam has withdrawn at least the bulk of its army.

The guerrillas may also lose morale if they believe they are now fighting only fellow Cambodians.

Anticipating this, the guerrillas recently stepped up charges that Vietnam was controlling the country with 1.25 million Vietnamese settlers.

Phnom Penh wants a political settlement to help end diplomatic and economic embargoes by non-communist countries that have hurt impoverished Cambodia.

But it has hinted that even without a settlement, a few countries like Australia and Thailand may recognize Phnom Penh after a general election expected early next year.

There are no signs of progress on breaking the central impasse in talks: the future of the Khmer Rouge.

Hun Sen repeated Sunday he would make no concessions on his demand that the Khmer Rouge Army and political organization be dismantled. Sihanouk says the Khmer Rouge will continue fighting if barred from taking part in a transitional coalition government.

Vietnam's claimed withdrawal has focused greater attention on the peace talks, and the Khmer Rouge appears to be under pressure from its two strongest backers, China and Thailand.

For the first time since Vietnam's invasion, three Chinese officials visited Cambodia for economic talks earlier this year, an indication Beijing is keeping its options open.

And at Pailin and elsewhere, the Thai Army has halted artillery support for the Khmer Rouge and cleared out some Khmer Rouge military bases and secretive civilian camps, officials said.

Hanoi says its pullout will end the Western economic blockades that have hurt Vietnam economically.

Its retreat from Cambodia coincides with declining Soviet influence in both countries and could begin a strategic realignment favouring the non-communist world, diplomats said. (Phnom Penh — AP)

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1687 — Turks surrender city of Athens to Venetians.
- 1716 — Treaty of Hanover between England and France leads to triple alliance with Holland.
- 1826 — Russia declares war against Persia over latter's encroachment into Trans-Caucasia.
- 1915 — British defeat Turks at Kut-el-Amara in Mesopotamia.
- 1924 — Two US Army planes land in Seattle, Washington, completing what is called first round-the-world flight, with total elapsed time of 175 days.
- 1939 — Germany and Soviet Union agree on plan to partition Poland in World War II.
- 1941 — Nazi Germany programme of terror begins in Czechoslovakia in World War II.
- 1950 — Indonesia is admitted to United Nations.
- 1965 — Volcano 35 miles (56 km) south of Manila in Philippines erupts, killing at least 184 people.
- 1975 — Officials of World Health Organization say they expect smallpox to be eradicated from earth within one year.
- 1977 — Japanese urban guerrillas hold 156 hostages on hijacked Japanese airliner at Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- 1978 — Syrian peacekeeping troops and Lebanese Christian militiamen engage in heavy fighting in Lebanon.
- 1980 — Iraq claims that its troops advanced 50 miles (80 km) inside Iran, but reports from Tehran deny the claim.
- 1982 — US President Ronald Reagan says his economic policies have rescued nation from fiscal disaster.
- 1984 — Indian authorities order temporary closure of Golden Temple.
- 1985 — A new president, Eric Arturo Delvalle, is sworn in Panama.
- 1987 — Mehdi Hashemi, one time close aide of Ayatollah Khomeini's chosen successor, is executed by firing squad in Iran prison for treason.
- 1988 — Czechoslovakia expels two British military attaches on charges of spying.

Sri Lanka's heart bleeds

Government looks for new tactics to tame JVP

"WITH the power that I have today, I can commit genocide," mused Premadasa Udugampola, a key target for Sinhalese radicals. "But is it correct for me to do that?"

Certainly the government has to find new tactics to the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) extremists, whose insurrection in Sri Lanka's Sinhalese-dominated southern and central areas has critically destabilised President Ranasinghe Premadasa's government.

Analysts believe Premadasa must move swiftly or the wealthy elite who lost their traditional control of the island nation to the low-caste politician in December polls may try to engineer his removal through a coup or forced resignation.

Udugampola, a veteran police officer overseeing central province, has been at the forefront of Premadasa's unsuccessful strategy to contain the rebellion by unleashing the security forces.

According to human rights workers, the stocky, intense policeman is responsible for organising death squads blamed for ruthlessly eliminating hundreds of JVP suspects.

But Udugampola, 51, also is a victim. JVP assassins a year ago raided his ancestral home, killing his mother, brother, sister-in-law and nephew and a niece. They then torched the house.

Udugampola's sister-in-law survived the attack. Officials said she told them the gunman who shot Udugampola's mother, who was in her 80s, in the abdomen declared: "This is for using your womb for producing a killer."

"The killing of my family members and my services have no connection," said Udugampola, with a broad smile and cold eyes. "I am a civilian police officer. I am a rational person, not an emotional person."

But Prins Gunasekera, a lawyer and human rights activist who risks his life registering habeas corpus petitions on missing people — 367 so far this year — said the slayings drove Udugampola to greater violence.

"From that day on he vowed to destroy the JVP," Gunasekera said. "He said, 'you have got five from my family, so I will get five hundred of your chaps,' and he began in real earnest."

Udugampola's new posting is the hill town of Kandy, the capital of central province, where the JVP has shifted the focus of its insurrection following its success in breaking government power in economically depressed southern province.

The new battlefield has greater emotional significance for most majority Sinhalese because Kandy is the centre of Sri Lankan Buddhism and a



Ranasinghe Premadasa: swift move

defensible stronghold where leaders historically retreated in times of adversity.

The encircling verdant hills now reverberate with sporadic gunshots and blasts. Bodies are found daily.

The fortunate victims are strapped to lampposts and dispatched with a single shot. Others appear to have been hacked apart before decapitation. But the preferred method of dispatching enemies is "neck-

lacing," in which a gasoline-soaked car tire is placed around the victim's neck and then set alight.

Residents blame state-sponsored groups for the political slayings, which average about 40 nationwide each day. Udugampola maintained the killings are committed by radicals who "masquerade as the army to discredit them."

Whoever is to blame, the JVP appears to be winning.

Government authority is being whittled away through a near-textbook campaign of coercion, assassinations and sabotage. Excessive retaliation by security forces fuels popular anger at the government and stokes support for the radicals.

Underpinning the strategy are pervasive grievances: the huge gap between wealth in the capital and impoverished rural areas, a dearth of opportunities for a well-educated population with middle-class aspirations, and the inability of the nation's elite to inspire.

"Day by day, they get stronger," a shopkeeper said of the JVP. "If I am angry with the government, there is only one way of dealing with it — through the JVP."

The JVP has hidden itself through a cell structure to prevent betrayal and detection. Such tactics arose in the aftermath of a 1971 JVP insurrection in which the government devastated the movement by killing an estimated 10,000 suspects in three weeks.

This time, the government so far has failed to net any senior JVP figures and authorities may never be able to eliminate the core of about 500 people thought to be directing the insurrection.

Premadasa has tried to open negotiations with the unseen enemy, apparently hoping to bring peace by harnessing the vital political forces unleashed by the JVP but the radicals responded by escalating its drive to replace the government with an authoritarian Marxist-style regime.

Analysts believe Premadasa's only hope is to rise above rivalries with opposition figures and form a national front coalition which would try to rally the public with calls for defending the principles of a liberal democracy.

Integral to success would be making the security forces again accountable to law and using power judiciously.

"Either he says 'blood and fire' and takes the population with him in a positive pitch for government or somebody else will do it for him," a Western diplomat said. "If the traditional elite in this country are not going to give over to a rag-tag bunch of murderers... but I can only see a slide into a South Asian Lebanon." (Kandy, Sri Lanka — UPI)

Dealing with PLO

Israeli taboo slowly fading

ISRAEL'S long-standing taboo on dealing with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is slowly fading.

Israel still has on its statute book a 1986 law, regarded by many as anachronistic, which provides for up to three years in prison for meeting PLO officials.

Veteran Israeli peace campaigner Abie Nathan, who owns the Voice of Peace offshore radio station, was convicted under that law on Wednesday for meeting Arafat and will be sentenced next week.

But a barrier was breached this month when Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, long regarded by Israel as the most moderate and acceptable of Palestinians, publicly declared he had met PLO chairman Yasser Arafat in Tunis.

"I thought it was time for us to say openly when we meet with our leadership," he told Reuters.

Freij could have been prosecuted under Israeli occupation laws for contact with PLO, instead he received a gentle rap on the knuckles from the local military governor.

"Freij set a very important precedent," said Palestinian journalist Daoud Kuttab.

Israelis are beginning to grasp the significance. If this most reasonable Palestinian, one of the few who regularly talks to their leaders, declares open allegiance to the PLO, whom else can Israel talk to?

Official sources said Freij's trip opened the floodgates to meetings with the PLO. Among the more

unlikely pilgrims to Tunis were two former leaders of the now defunct village leagues, set up by Israel in the late 1970s in a vain effort to break PLO power in the West Bank.

Other barriers are crumbling. Israel newspapers frequently interview PLO officials nowadays. Arafat has held banting news conferences with Israeli journalists twice this year.

Probably the biggest psychological change occurred last December when the United States, Israel's closest ally, opened a dialogue with the PLO, accepting its renunciation of terrorism and recognition of Israel's right to exist.

A Western diplomat described the process as "the gradual de-demonisation of the plot."

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, while vowing that Israel will not negotiate with what he calls "PLO-Tunis," agreed this month that Egypt, in close contact with the PLO, should appoint Palestinian negotiators to talk to Israel.

Rabin said the delegation could include Palestinians deported by Israel for pro-PLO activity or "professors from the United States" who are members of the Palestine National Council (PNC), the PLO's parliament-in-exile.

Egypt should choose the Palestinian team in consultation with Israel and "other factors," he said in an oblique reference to the PLO.

To encourage them to co-operate with Israel's initiative for elections in the occupied territories, the

Defence Ministry has allowed local PLO supporters to travel abroad frequently this year, turning a blind eye to their meetings with PLO officials.

"It's a game. They tell us not to meet with the PLO and we tell them we don't. But as soon as we get home, the (military) authorities summon us and ask us to report, knowing we're coming straight from the PLO," one local Palestinian leader said.

The main bastion of opposition to dealing with the PLO is in Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's rightist Likud Party.

Shamir rejects Egypt's proposal to host Israeli-Palestinian peace talks precisely because he believes it would be tantamount to negotiating with the PLO and surrendering to a 21-month-old uprising in the occupied territories.

However even Shamir called in avowed PLO supporters such as Ramallah lawyer Jamil Tarifi and the head of the West Bank Red Crescent medical aid society, Ezzedin Al Arian, in July in the search for a Palestinian partner for his peace initiative.

The Palestinians who met Shamir reported immediately to PLO headquarters and reliable sources said some had then travelled to Tunis and briefed the PLO.

Many Israelis still believe the PLO aims to destroy Israel, as official government statements maintain.

But despite the headline mood of public opinion, (Occupied Jerusalem — Reuters)

Warm feelings replacing suspicion

PRESIDENT George Bush's declaration that things are going well between Washington and Moscow is the latest evidence that warm feelings are replacing suspicion in the superpower relationship.

While US officials still temper their public statements with cautions about Soviet military power and the need to maintain a strong defence, they seem at times near the sort of "euphoria" that Bush warned against less than two weeks ago.

"I know there's almost a euphoria in some quarters that there are no risks in the world anymore. Well, I don't believe that, and if you look at the Soviet Union modernising its nuclear arsenal at a rather ferocious pace, I'm prudent enough to say, why? What's happening here? Why are they doing this?" Bush told reporters on Sept 15.

But with the two sides seemingly aligned behind cuts in chemical arms, in accord on a superpower summit meeting next year and making clear progress toward nuclear arms reduction agreements, Bush was decidedly more upbeat on

Tuesday when he again discussed US-Soviet ties with journalists.

"I'm very pleased with the way things are going," he said. "The reaction from the Soviets to our (chemical arms) proposals on Monday has been positive, and so now the goal is to get moving and try to work out these agreements."

"We got some good common ground," he added when asked about a Soviet proposal that Washington and Moscow eliminate their entire stock of chemical weapons. The Soviet offer seemed to up the ante on Bush's day-old offer of an 80 per cent cut in US chemical weapons if Moscow would reduce its stocks to an equal level.

One senior White House official said that at one time the United States would have angrily labelled the Soviet proposal a political manoeuvre designed to upstage Bush.

"They want to gain advantage, but we think they are sincere in wanting an agreement," this official said. "There is a different judgment about their motives and intentions."

Asked about a Soviet decision that it would no longer refuse to sign a START agreement to cut long-range nuclear weapons if the United States continued development of its "Star Wars" anti-missile system, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater attributed it to good intentions.

"We think it represents a positive signal in terms of the Soviet's willingness and eagerness to get a START agreement," he said.

In a similar vein, US Secretary of State James Baker crowed that his Jackson Hole, Wyoming, talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze last weekend were indicative of "a new spirit of openness" in a relationship that had moved "from confrontation to dialogue and now to co-operation."

And Shevardnadze, who a few weeks ago charged Bush with "timidity" in East-West relations and said the United States was dragging its feet in nuclear arms talks, now says the superpowers are moving "energetically" on a broad front. (Washington — Reuters)

Letters to the editor

Stop hundi business

SIR: No doubt that NRI Indians are helping India by sending their savings to India through banks. But needless to say, there are many Indians sending money to India by illegal means called hundi, thus saving KD 3 per thousand rupees.

Before, this activity was limited to Bombay city, but now it is spreading to every corner of India especially Cuddapah district (Andhra Pradesh) from where many people are working as domestic servants in Kuwait.

Every Friday evening one can see money brokers roaming near Sheraton Hotel to collect money from the people to send to Cuddapah town.

I request the Indian embassy to take immediate action to stop this illegal way of money remittance to India, otherwise, Indian rupee will devalue more in future and worsen the economic position of India.

Sree Hari Choudhary,
Safat.

Tit for tat

SIR: As a result of Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses," some have died in some parts of the world. No wonder the pen is mightier than the sword.

Those people or parties who are hurt by his writing should use the pen (to retaliate) against him and not use anger, sword or gun. So it should be "tit for tat and not tat for tit."

Vincent Dias,
Safat.

Beauty destroyed

SIR: The waterfront project (along the Gulf Road) has served to facilitate Kuwait with the various amenities it needs. It has also destroyed the coastline's beauty, something the people responsible for its construction have failed to notice.

The coastline is one of Kuwait's most prominent

and prestigious physical features. It includes the sea, the ships on it and the distant outline of skyscrapers. A breathtaking view.

Driving from Salmiya towards the city, the sea disappears from view for miles on end.

It is a pity because although change in Kuwait is inevitable, folly is not.

Diana Haura,
Salmiya.

Colourful question

SIR: Do the obtuse comments by Zahed Matar on the colour of Australian meat (AT, Sept. 21-22) imply that dark meat is unwholesome and undesirable?

Perhaps I should buy light coloured instead of dark coloured oranges next time I go shopping.

Bruce Bassil,
Kuwait.

British parties to meet

Overhaul of policies

BRITAIN'S main political parties stage their annual conferences over the next two weeks, the opposition Labour Party looking to a policy overhaul as a springboard to power and the ruling Conservatives aiming to project a new image.

Labour goes into its meeting in the southern resort of Brighton on Monday buoyed by a good run in opinion polls over the last six months which have consistently put them ahead of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservatives.

For their conference in the northwestern resort of Blackpool a week later, the Conservatives unveiled a new logo on Monday featuring an Olympic-style torch symbol and a new slogan: "The right team for Britain's future."

The Conservatives, now halfway through a record third consecutive term in power, are undismayed by their public standing and point to latest surveys showing them closing the gap with the opposition.

Labour leader Neil Kinnock brushed off a challenge to his command at last year's conference and has a firmer grip on his often-fractious party now than at any time since he was appointed in the aftermath of Thatcher's crushing 1983 election victory.

He will take Labour into the next election, due by mid-1992 at the latest, with a complete new policy agenda thrashed out during an exhaustive review he ordered after the 1987 election setback.

Kinnock says that agenda, dubbed "new realism," gives the party "a new electable face" and it looks set to be rubber-stamped by delegates in Brighton next year.

Its most controversial proposal is to scrap a vote-buying policy of unilateral nuclear disarmament and commit Labour to the "proper" defence of Britain, including the possible use of nuclear weapons.

Kinnock is keen to promote an impression of unity at the week-long conference, avoiding the squabbles with rebellious leftwingers and hard-line trade unionists that have become a customary feature of Labour's annual meetings.

A trouble-free conference would help him build on a strong showing by Labour in June's European elections, when the Socialists routed the Conservatives in the ruling party's worst performance at the polls since Thatcher became prime minister.

Thatcher reached to the setback by reshuffling her cabinet in July, telling her senior ministers that — barring disasters — they were in place until the next election.

She put former Education Secretary, Kenneth Baker in charge of election strategy as Conservative Party chairman, counting on his slick presentational skills to project "a less abrasive and more caring party image."

Outlining the programme for the Blackpool conference, Baker said quality of life was the issue that would dominate politics in the 1990s.

Resolutions for debate submitted by rank-and-file party members show clearly that the environment is the major issue of concern, and it will be the subject of a specially-extended debate in Blackpool.

Baker said that the stress on team work in the new party slogan did not mean a demotion for Thatcher, widely viewed as an uncaring and domineering figure.

"The prime minister is still the captain of the team. There is no question about that," he told reporters. "But we want to emphasise the strength of the team, the breadth and experience of the team, the effectiveness of the team."

Labour foreign affairs spokesman Gerald Kaufman quickly attacked the Conservative Party's facade. "There is no doubt that Britain is suffering from Thatcher fatigue. There is a deep weariness with the style and content of the government," he said.

In an editorial, the pro-Conservative daily Mail said Labour's opinion poll lead reflected an "understandable unease" among voters over such policies as reform of the state health service and plans to sell off electricity and water supplies.

"There has been a prolonged period of clumsiness," it said.

The newspaper said Conservative fortunes were again in the ascendancy but added that it was time the party looked to its image. "Their leaders lack neither courage nor zest. What they could do with, both in timing and presentation, is a good deal more guile," the Mail concluded. (London — Reuters)

"The new government in South Africa must now move quickly and unambiguously to meet its commitment to fundamental reform. A new and just society cannot be constructed overnight. But we are clear on what should happen. We want to see the release of detainees, the lifting of the state of emergency, the suspension of violence, and a dialogue with black leaders to consider and implement the changes that must be made."

— British Foreign Secretary John Major urging the South African government to do more for the black majority in South Africa.

"The United States and its international partners have already undertaken new initiatives toward Poland. But now, in light of clearly growing needs, the recent accession of a Solidarity-led government and our own stake in its success, we must do more."

— US President George Bush asking Western help for the reforms in Poland.

هكذا من العمل

BUSINESS & FINANCE

IMF considering \$700m loan for Poland

Israel's arbitrary policies flayed

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27, (AP): Arab delegates to the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank meeting today criticised Israel's "arbitrary policies" in the territories it occupies.

Speaking on behalf of the Arab group, Muhammad Imady, Syria's minister of economy and foreign trade, also said eight Arab countries are implementing or negotiating reforms in their economies with the IMF in order to become eligible for more loans.

He did not name the countries, but IMF officials said they are: Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Jordan, Sudan, Egypt and Somalia.

"We deplore Israel's arbitrary policies in the occupied Arab territories which have continued to weaken the economic base, hamper growth and disrupt the structure of the production in these territories," Imady said.

Seeking to adjust to the decline in world oil prices, Arab countries have embarked on reforms that include "substantial cuts in their expenditures" as well as adopting measures to enhance the growth of the private sector, Imady said.

Emphasis in recent months has been placed on reducing the debts of developing countries to commercial banks, in accordance with the so-called American Brady plan, Imady said.

"But the debt situation of lower middle-income countries whose debt is owed mostly to official creditors is, in many cases,

just as severe and deserved similar attention," he added. Official creditors are governments and the two international lending institutions.

"We would encourage the creditor community to intensify" its efforts of recent years to reduce the debt of developing countries, Imady said.

Meanwhile, Juergen Warnke, West German minister for economic co-operation, said today that the International Monetary Fund was considering a \$700 million loan to help Poland reform its economy.

Warnke told reporters the money may be available this year. He did not specify how long a period it would cover. Money from the fund is usually disbursed over several years. Disbursements are often halted if the borrowing government does not live up to the conditions it agrees to.

Warnke said help had been speeded by talks of Leszek Balcerowicz, Poland's new finance minister, with other leaders at the fund's annual meeting. He added that the new Polish government, under non-communist leadership, hoped for agreement in November.

He said the Polish government is ready for basic changes, including currency reform and privatization of state-owned industry.

Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said today that his government was offering Poland lower tariffs on its exports to Japan in an effort to help the economic reform.

"We see reform in Poland as a major historical challenge for all of us," he told reporters.

West German Finance Minister Theo Waigel said that for more freedom, self-determination and better living conditions in Poland and Hungary, outside help was needed.

"My government supports a timely agreement with Poland and Hungary with IMF and World Bank on a programme of sustained, market-oriented reforms," he said in a speech to the meeting.

"This would also provide the bases enabling Poland and its commercial bank creditors to make use of the new elements of the strengthened debt strategy."

A new debt strategy has been promoted by US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady for reduction of debt owed to commercial banks. About three-quarters of Poland's \$42 billion foreign debt is owed to governments rather than to banks.

On Tuesday, Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega of Brazil, the biggest Third World debtor, suggested that governments too should reduce the debts owed them. Brazil owes governments about 20 per cent of its total debt, now estimated at \$110 billion.

There has been some forgiveness of government debt by West Germany and other European countries, but most of it has been the benefit of the poorest governments in Southern Africa. President George Bush has promised these countries a reduction of \$1 billion in debt owed to the

United States.

"It would be a historic error if economic reforms in Poland and Hungary were to fail for lack of external support," British Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson told the meeting.

He said the first step must be for the fund to negotiate agreements with the two countries.

He said some help could be given before such agreements: food aid and possibly a delay on some debts owed by Poland to governments.

Both Lawson and Hashimoto denied any knowledge of a bid, widely reported as made by Polish officials, for a billion dollars worth of aid from Western governments.

Nor would they say if they backed the effort of the Soviet Union to join the bank and fund, which would give it, too, some claim on their help. Lawson called it a hypothetical question and said the focus needs to be on Poland and Hungary.

Hashimoto pointed out that the Soviet rouble cannot be converted to other currencies, so that its contribution could not strengthen the fund.

He said he had visited the Soviet Union last May and had seen first-hand the difficulties facing President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Hashimoto added that Soviet membership would depend on whether the 152-member governments approve.

(See Page 14)



A Tokyo foreign exchange broker shouts a dollar trading figure in early market activity yesterday as the US currency fell after concerted selling intervention involving the Bank of Japan, the Bank of Canada, and the US Federal Reserve following the 141.60 yen opening against Tuesday's New York close of 142.35/45. (Reuter wirephoto)

Gold edges up

Dollar recovers

LONDON, Sept. 27, (Reuters): The dollar closed a shade lower in Europe today after recovering from a heavy broadside of concerted Central Bank intervention, dealers said.

"There was great turmoil on foreign exchange and money markets today," said Paul Chertkow, international economist in London with finance house Drexel Burnham Lambert.

"We haven't had this volatile trading all year."

The dollar dipped after it was sold in the open market in a joint operation by 11 central banks, including the US Federal Reserve and the Bank of Canada.

It was the third day in a row that central banks had intervened to subdue the US unit.

But dealers said profit-taking lifted the dollar off a session low of 1.8730 West German marks to close in London at 1.8815 after Tuesday's 1.8885 finish.

Against the Japanese yen it ended at 140.45 after 142.00. Gold bullion edged up half a dollar to finish in London at \$368.25 an ounce.

The Group of Seven (G-7) made their statement in Washington, where finance ministers are attending the annual joint meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

They believe the dollar's strength could worsen world trade imbalances and export inflation. They have said similar things in the past, but the tough language of their communiqué and the intensity of the intervention has a new no-nonsense style.

While finance ministers at the IMF meeting debate issues from Third World debt to the problems of the Polish economy, central banks have been spelling out their message on the dollar to dealing rooms around the globe.

"More lows tested overnight with the central banks maintaining the whip hand and for the moment it seems best to follow their lead with the intention of getting the dollar back to levels which they are satisfied with," the Midland Bank in London advised dealing colleagues today.

French Finance Minister Pierre Berégovoy told a Paris finance seminar today that the G-7's goal of co-operation in the markets was working. "Monetary co-operation has been put into effect by intervention in the market which has led to a fall in the dollar," he said.

But he refused to be drawn on the question now taxing financial brains around Europe: Will interest rates be raised to hold the dollar at current levels and defend European currencies?

"Interest rates are largely determined by the markets and domestic considerations in each country," he said, dodging speculation that West Germany and France may lead a new round of interest rate rises in the near future.

Gold closed in London at \$368.25 an ounce, up just 50 cents on Tuesday's finish.

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Oil industry on road to disaster

Norway sees its oil policy unchanged

MOSCOW, Sept. 27, (Reuters): The oil industry in the Soviet Union, the world's largest producer of crude, is heading for disaster largely because of a recent radical reorganisation, a senior government official said today.

"It has to be said the oil industry, which at one time was flourishing, fell to pieces. The destruction is going ahead at full speed," wrote Vladimir Filanovsky-Zenkov, First Deputy Minister for Oil and Gas, in the daily Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya.

He said the reorganisation had wrought chaos and he predicted that total oil output for 1989 would be at least 10 million to 12 million tonnes lower than planned.

First Deputy Prime Minister

Lev Voronin said on Monday oil production in the first eight months of 1989 was already 10.5 million tonnes down on last year's level.

In June the oil and gas ministries were merged as part of a plan to reduce state intervention in production and to encourage enterprises to play a much greater role in running their own affairs while doing more to balance their books.

But Filanovsky-Zenkov said investment in new equipment had been slashed and forecast that production over the next five years would be tens of millions of tonnes below target unless more money was pumped into the industry.

"Everyone... must understand that if we fall down we're

not going to get up again. The situation is desperately serious," he said.

"The overwhelmingly majority of enterprises are not ready for the change and do not want to function independently because they are unable to do so," he said.

The government had introduced the changes without consulting oil industry experts and the industry needed a high degree of central control to function efficiently and to plan for the future," he said.

Meanwhile Norwegian Oil Minister Arne Oeien said non-Opec Norway's oil policy would remain unchanged following the Opec's agreement today on a new output pact.

Committee approves measure on tied aid

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27, (AP): A House committee voted today to strip the Treasury Department of authority over low-interest loans to Third World countries for the purchase of high-tech goods or construction services from US companies.

On a 28-22 vote, the House Banking Committee effectively turned that authority over to the Export-Import Bank.

The vote came as part of a bill raising its "tied-aid" war chest by \$200 million. The bill would impose new environmental conditions on US approval of World Bank and International Monetary Fund aid to those countries.

US manufacturers have complained the Treasury — in its effort to deter the use of such tied-aid packages by other countries, chiefly Japan and

France — has been too tight-fisted in approving loans and loan guarantees to finance their exports.

As a result, the American companies claim they are losing out on \$2 billion to \$4 billion a year in foreign contracts.

The bill also authorises \$400 million over the next five years for the multinational Inter-American Development Bank to support loans in Latin America and \$150 million for a special IMF account that subsidises interest payments on loans owed by very poor countries, especially in Africa.

Under the legislation approved by the committee, the US representatives to the World Bank and IMF would be prohibited from approving loans for Third World projects without an environmental assessment first.

Arab Bank to launch investment funds

WITH increasing market complexity and volatility, the Arab Bank perceives a growing need for professional and conservative investment management. Accordingly, the bank is launching a range of investment funds on Oct. 1, 1989.

These funds will be open ended investment companies based in Guernsey, British Isles. Investment seminars will be held in Bahrain, Qatar, Abu Dhabi and Dubai during October to introduce these funds.

Investors in the International Fund will be able to benefit from any or all of the three underlying funds: An investment in a range of bank deposits and short-term monetary instruments, which may be denominated in leading currencies.

The fund aims to protect and maximise the value of liquid assets in terms of international purchasing power through the management and diversification of currency exposure.

An investment in US dollar deposits and short-term monetary instruments. The fund offers wholesale money market rates and capital availability at short notice.

An investment in a portfolio of fixed income securities, of varying maturities, which may be denominated in leading currencies.

The fund is designed to provide a high level of total return from a combination of interest income and capital appreciation.

Additional underlying funds and, in particular, a global equity fund will be offered at a later date.

For those wishing to participate in the risks and rewards of transactions which conform to the principles of the Holy Quran, they are offered the opportunity to invest in the Murabaha transactions of the Trade and Investment Fund.

The chairman of the Arab Bank, Abdul Majed Shoman, drew attention to the advantages it offers to investors, namely: professional investment management; financial pooling of resources into a fund, thereby gaining access to higher wholesale rates; diversification of currency exposure, and a reduction in transaction cost; withdrawal at short notice.

All of the above funds will be denominated in US dollars and the minimum investment in each fund is US\$10,000.

Kenya under pressure to boost petrol prices

NAIROBI, Sept. 27, (Reuters): International oil companies have cut petrol imports and caused shortages in Kenya to put pressure on the government raise pump prices, diplomats here say.

Energy Minister Nicholas Biwott assured oil executives earlier this week the cabinet would approve a 10 to 15 per cent increase on Thursday, one Western diplomat said today.

"The oil companies are claiming incredible losses for the last year and saying they're just not taking it any more," he added.

Biwott said yesterday Kenya was having discussions with the international oil firms that dominate the local market, but he denied the government was at odds with them.

"They (oil firms) are here to make money. They are entitled to a viable business," Biwott told Reuters, but he did not indicate whether the government would in fact raise pump prices.

Oil firms approached by Reuters declined comment.

Kenya last raised petrol prices about two years ago, but the Kenya shilling has depreciated by 20 per cent against the dollar since then, eroding oil company profit margins.

Prices increases are sensitive in Kenya. The government recently lifted price controls on many consumer items such as meat and soap powder, provoking sharp price rises.

In response to World Bank pressure, the government is also introducing more

direct charges for education and health care.

Diplomats said the government is therefore wary of the political consequences of raising petrol prices because of the inevitable knock-on effect on the cost of living.

Kenya has been hit by sporadic petrol shortages for some months as talks dragged on between Biwott's ministry and oil firms Esso, Caltex, Shell-British Petroleum, Total and Agip.

The shortages have also hit Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi, which normally import most of their oil products from Kenya.

The diplomats said Kenya informally agreed last month to increase pump prices, but when it failed to honour its pledge, the

oil companies stopped buying and distributing petrol from the state-owned National Oil Corporation of Kenya (Nock).

Nock normally imports only a fraction of Kenya's crude oil, but the diplomatic sources said it became the country's sole supplier a month ago when the foreign firms halted imports, saying that they were losing about six dollars per barrel.

Kenya's lone oil refinery in the port of Mombasa is jointly owned by the state and the oil companies. It refines crude which is then pumped along a 450 km (280 miles) pipeline to Nairobi.

Kenya imports about two million tonnes of crude a year. About a quarter of it is re-exported to neighbouring states.



Picture shows Robert Mauroux (7th from left) pictured with other members.

SIBA honours IATA, KAC

Skyline Institute of Boodai Aviation felicitated management of Kuwait Airways Training and Development Department and International Air Transport Association for their contribution in introducing internationally recognised diploma on Travel and Cargo Training.

Adel Y. Al Shamali, who is the local co-ordinator and director of Training and Development of KAC is explained to Travel and Cargo Agents the benefits of self study programme to be able to service customer better.

Robert Mauroux, Senior Executive of International Air Transport Association specially arrived from Geneva to visit Skyline Institute which is recognised as IATA-UFTAA and IATA-FIATA Authorised Training Centre offers classroom training to develop students' skills for their career development.

In a specially organised function at Sheraton Hotel yesterday Robert Mauroux and Adel Y. Al Shamali were presented special plaque of appreciation and recognition the completion of ten years of co-ordination in Kuwait.

Efforts made by Skyline Institute in providing diploma for students were appreciated by the Management of Kuwait Airways and IATA.

Adel Borsley, asst director of training of KAC presented a letter of appreciation to Kamal Puri asst training manager of Skyline for completing all five diplomas of IATA-UFTAA & IATA-FIATA.

The \$27-a-share tender offer was virtually assured because Sony gained the agreement of Columbia and its major shareholders, Coca-Cola Company, which holds 49 per cent of the company and was once its owner.

Last year Sony bought CBS Records for \$2 billion and the purchase of the famed Hollywood studio put Sony on track to create a global entertainment company, with major film and recording divisions to supply its audio and video products.

Sony said it would place day-to-day operation of Columbia Pictures in the hands of US management and "keep it as independent as possible, as a full-fledged member of the US film industry."

Sony said the management of Coca-Cola will recommend approval of the purchase at a meeting of the board to be held on Oct 2. Columbia's film earnings in recent years have been slow, and industry analysts said the main benefit for Sony will be Columbia's huge film library.

It has more than 2,700 titles including "Lawrence of Arabia," "On the Waterfront," "Tootsie," and "Ghostbusters."

Columbia also runs a well-regarded television production and distribution business that Sony will acquire.

It marks the second major buyout of a Hollywood studio by a foreign company this month. Qintex Ltd, an Australian television and resort company, acquired MGM/UA Communications Inc. after outbidding Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation with a \$1.9 billion offer.

Columbia's current ownership was formed just two years ago in a spinoff and merger involving Coca-Cola Entertainment Holdings and Tri-Star Pictures Incorporated.

The biggest Japanese purchase of a US company was the \$2.6 billion Bridgestone Corporation paid for the Firestone Tyre Company.



Mohamed Al Kharafi

Powerful chairman

'Impressive string of profits'

LONDON, Sept. 27, (Kuna): A prominent business daily here published today an eight-page supplement to highlight the activities of Arab banking.

The Financial Times newspaper spoke in its survey about the success of Arab banks in attracting private sector funds for investment in Western markets.

"The paper noted that the biggest Arab banks have developed international operations and presence in such financial centres as London and New York."

In a profile in this section of the National Bank of Kuwait, the newspaper underlined that the bank has achieved an "impressive string of profits" including a 15 per cent rise in profits in real terms to KD30.9 million last year.

Through this solid performance NBB has earned the respect of its "peers throughout the Middle East as one of the few genuinely credible Arab international banks."

The Financial Times also said that in the first nine months of 1989, NBB's profits accounted for 25 per cent of the value of the entire Kuwaiti Stock Exchange.

By another measure NBB, Kuwait's oldest commercial bank at 37, also "towers above its debt-saddled competitors."

The paper paid tribute to its "powerful chairman", Mohamed Abdul Mohsin Al Kharafi, "who is widely acknowledged as the doyen of local banking."

Meanwhile, in a general reference to Kuwait's commercial banks, the paper said that the six commercial banks reported profits in 1988 for the third year running.

Bilzerian sentenced to four years

NEW YORK, Sept. 27, (Reuters): US corporate raider Paul Bilzerian was sentenced today to four years in prison and fined \$1.5 million for securities and tax fraud and making false statements to the government.

Bilzerian, the former chairman of defence contractor Singer Co, was found guilty by a jury on June 9 in a major victory for US federal prosecutors in their fight against white-collar financial crime.

The 39-year-old investor faced a maximum prison term of 45 years and a fine of up to \$2.25 million. He was charged with nine counts of securities fraud, conspiracy to commit tax fraud and giving false statements to the government.

Judge Robert Ward also sentenced Bilzerian to two years of probation following the end of his prison term.

Economic pact signed

BAGHDAD, Iraq, Sept. 27, (AP): Iraq and East Germany signed a new economic agreement today designed to boost their trade above the current value of \$50 million a year.

State-run television said the pact was signed by Iraq's Minister of Industry and Military Industrialisation, Hussein Kamel, and East German Minister of Construction Wolfgang Honecker.

Iraq and East Germany have developed major trading links since 1968, when Iraq was the first country outside the communist world officially to recognise the German Democratic Republic.

Record entry for Mideast power show

A RECORD number of 21 Gulf companies have confirmed their places in Middle East Electricity '90, joining a big international line-up of exhibitors for an event which will again focus the attention of the power industries on Dubai in January.

With peace in the Gulf releasing a multitude of projects shelved during the Iraq-Iran conflict, the largest exhibition of its kind in the Arab world is expected to lure a stream of eager buyers with millions of dollars to spend.

Sharing the exhibition floor at Dubai's World Trade Centre from Jan 14-17 will be major international concerns and much smaller companies equally aware of the opportunity to take advantage of a surge in the regional electricity, power generation and electronic engineering business.

Organised by Fairs and Exhibitions Ltd and supported by the UAE's Ministry of Electricity and Water, the power show will again feature a strong contingent of British companies, along with competitors from many other European countries, the USA, the Far East and the sub-continent. Emirates, the award-winning international airline of the UAE, will be the official carrier for the exhibition.

The record number of Gulf companies taking part is made up of 17 from the UAE and four from Saudi Arabia.

"We are delighted, but not surprised, by the response," said Virginia Kern, managing director of Fairs and Exhibitions Ltd. "This is the eighth time that the Middle East Electricity exhibition has been held, and it has grown in stature every year."

"The event has a proven record for attracting high quality visitors and producing sales worth many millions of dollars. As a result of the effects of peace in the Gulf, exhibitors are expecting a particularly profitable four days in Dubai this time."

Dubai's stature as the exhibition centre of the Middle East, added to the World Trade Centre's modern and sophisticated range of facilities, have been important factors in the show's success. The previous exhibition, in January 1988, attracted more than 2,500 visitors from 27 countries.

Among the major international companies returning to Dubai will be Hawker Siddeley, the London-based electrical and mechanical engineering concern, which will be represented on its corporate group stand by four subsidiary operating companies.

Borrowing plan

BOSTON, Sept. 27, (AP): In its latest effort to strengthen its financial future, Wang Laboratories Inc. announced yesterday that it has completed a deal to borrow up to \$175 million.

Wang officials said in a prepared statement the agreement with CIT Group-Business Credit Inc., whose parent company is Manufacturers Hanover Corp., is part of its recently announced restructuring plan.

Wang reported a \$424 million loss for the fiscal year ended June 30, which led to thousands of employee layoffs and upper level reshuffling.

Currency rates

KUWAIT, Sept. 27, (Kuna): Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait, today.

	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.29689	0.29784
Sterling	0.48065	0.48280
S. fr.	0.15745	0.15815
D. fr.	0.18125	0.18205
F. fr.	0.04650	0.04670
It. lira	0.0002175	0.00021105
Jap. yen	0.0021000	0.0021905
Bh. dinar	0.78095	0.78210
UAE dh.	0.08075	0.08110
S. riyal	0.07910	0.07945
O. riyal	0.08150	0.08185
O. riyal	0.77040	0.77390

Interest Rates

KUWAIT, Sept. 27, (Kuna): Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	8-1/4	8-3/8
3 months	8-3/4	8-1/2
6 months	8-1/4	8-5/8
1 year	8-1/4	8-9/16

EXCHANGE RATE

Indian rupee	17.900
Sri Lankan rupee	7.340
Pakistani rupee	14.210
Bangladesh taka	9.140
US dollar	29775
Pound sterling	48300
Deutsche mark	15805
UAE Dirham	08104
Japanese yen	002114

'Bankers must accept some losses on Third World loans'

IMF must do more to aid Poland: Bush

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27, (AP): President George Bush told the 152-nation International Monetary Fund today that more must be done to help Poland's new non-communist-led government and cited "our self-evident stake in its success."

The President urged the international lending organisation, and its sister agency, the World Bank, "to work rapidly with Poland" to help the nation restructure its economy.

He also vowed that the United States would work with the IMF to help develop a compromise by the end of this year to help increase the organisation's funds.

In his maiden speech to the two multinational financial organisations, Bush also called on commercial banks to carry more of a burden in easing the troubled economies of Latin America and other developing nations.

"We encourage these steps not as self-sacrifice, but as self-interest," Bush said in prepared remarks. "Success not only will help the debtor nations, but it will also strengthen the banks, by putting their portfolios on a sounder footing."

Bush's comments to the annual IMF-World Bank meeting were a toned-down rendition of an appeal he made to a group of international bankers and financial officials last night at the White House.

At that session, Bush lobbied hard for the Third World debt

relief proposal crafted by Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, saying bankers must accept some losses on Third World loans as part of a "new realism."

The so-called Brady plan, unveiled last March, endorses voluntary efforts on the part of commercial banks to forgive part of the \$400 billion they are owed by the largest debtor countries, many of them in Latin America.

However, banks have been reluctant to endorse the plan because it requires them to partially forgive old loans, then turn around and make new ones.

In today's speech to the gathering of most of the world's financial ministers, Bush said: "There may be no greater opportunity before us all today than the challenges of Poland and, more broadly, Eastern Europe."

Bush urged the lending organisations to give special attention to funneling Western financial aid to Poland, noting the United States and some other Western nations had individually already come up with aid packages.

The Bush administration is supporting a \$119 million package of US economic aid to Poland and another \$100 million in food aid.

"In light of clearly growing needs, the recent accession of a Solidarity-led government, and our self-evident stake in its success, we must do more," Bush said.

"For its part, the United States

intends to be out in front of this effort, to take advantage of this historic development and to ensure its success," Bush said.

He called recent movement toward new freedoms and toward open-market economies both in Eastern Europe and in the Soviet Union "stunning."

"The jury is no longer out. Look at the two economic systems and see who has prospered and who has struggled. Let's put an end to the economic experiment. Because history has decided," he said.

Bush told the financial officials: "A more open and humane Soviet Union can only be in the interest of the West."

"And, as we see the evidence of that reform, we can match it with steps of our own," he added.

The President also appealed to the financial officials, representing rich and poor nations alike, to join forces in the war on drugs, calling it "a world-wide problem" that can only be solved by joint international action.

"To conceal their obscene profits, drug barons must wash their money by cycling it through financial institutions and illegitimate shell corporations," Bush said.

"We need tough measures to track down and confiscate the profits of drug-related crime," Bush said. He reiterated the US call for all countries to ratify the United Nations Vienna convention, which makes money laundering a criminal and extraditable offense.

Bush also applauded what he said was an increased attention being given by the World Bank to the environmental consequences of some of its projects in developing nations. "But there is more to be done," he said.

Bush said the nations of the world should work "more cooperatively" to deal with the problems of global warming.

In advance of the speech, Bush gave a group of international bankers a hard sell in behalf of his administration's debt-reduction plan.

At a White House reception last night, Bush told the bankers and officials of the IMF and the World Bank they all had "key roles to play" in helping to ease the Third World's staggering debt.

"Special efforts have been asked of the commercial banks as part of this new approach," Bush said, according to a copy of his remarks made available today by the White House.

The Brady plan, unveiled last March, endorses voluntary efforts on the part of commercial banks to forgive part of the \$400 billion they are owed by the largest debtor countries, many of them in Latin America.

Bush praised debt-relief packages worked out so far under the plan for Mexico and the Philippines, saying: "I realize these negotiations were difficult. It is not easy for banks to recognise losses."



World Bank president Barber Conable (left) Kyu Sung Lee, chairman of the IMF Board of Governors (centre) and IMF managing director Michel Camdessus pose after the opening ceremonies of the IMF-World Bank annual meeting on Tuesday. (Reuter wirephoto)

"The results, however, reflect a new realism on the part of the commercial banking community in approaching the debt problem," he said.

"This is an international problem, which requires collaboration and innovation to make lasting progress," Bush told his White House audience of 73 bankers, officials of the World Bank and IMF and other key participants at this week's annual IMF-World Bank meet-

ings. In today's speech, Bush said that "one of the lessons of the 1980s, especially the debt crisis, is that we're all in this together. And when we co-operate, we all come out winners."

Bush also told the international gathering, "the United States recognises that the IMF must have adequate resources to fulfill its critical role."

Thus far, the Bush administration had shrugged off the IMF's

bid for a major increase in its \$120 billion capital.

But, Bush declared, "we will continue to work with other members, in the hope of reaching a decision on quotas (how much each country contributes) by the end of the year."

"The United States has always supported the IMF and will continue to do so," he said. The United States is the largest donor to the two bodies.

Despite reforms

Investors stay shy of Nigeria

LAGOS, Sept. 27, (Reuters): As the International Monetary Fund holds its annual meeting in Washington, Nigeria wonders when it will see the benefits of three years of unpalatable economic medicine it has swallowed to impress the IMF.

The government has loosened state control of the economy, opened up to foreign ownership and offered generous incentives to investors. But foreign businessmen are still not queuing to enter a country where more than 100 million people offer the biggest market on the African continent.

"They (the IMF) asked us to do X, Y and Z and we have done them but very little money has come in," said a government official.

Nigeria rejected IMF tutelage in December 1985, saying conditions attached to a \$2.5 billion loan were unacceptable.

But since launching economic reforms in June 1986, the country has carried out most of the measures the fund stipulated as necessary before it would approve new loans and reschedule debts totalling \$30.5 billion.

The Lagos government, which launched its programme of reforms in June 1986, has even redefined its main foreign policy objective as attracting foreign investment, but the inflow of new funds remains elusive.

The World Bank expects direct private foreign investment in Nigeria this year will be \$400 million compared with \$355 million last year and \$386 million in 1987.

Investors appear unconvinced that Nigeria, which since independence in 1960 has undergone a civil war and five military coups, has finally achieved stability.

Foreign businessmen have "a wait and see attitude" towards the military government's programme of a return to democracy by 1992, said Shamsudeen Usman, director-general of the government's privatisation and commercialisation programme.

They also need persuading that the government's reforms will last and be properly implemented. The lack of confidence in the country shown by some of its nationals does little to alleviate the fears of potential foreign investors.

"Why would a foreigner invest in the country when he sees Nigerians taking their money out of the country?" asked Larry Koinyan, head of the state agency for rural development.

Also, competition for international investment funds is intense and Nigeria must contend with other countries offering a more favourable and profitable business environment.

"The potential investor is not a philanthropist... his aim is to get the best investment climate, in every respect," said Fred Scott, resident representative of the West Africa Committee, an organisation representing foreign businessmen.

Scott cites the case of a Swiss businessman who arrived at Lagos airport but could not stomach the chaos of Nigeria's main entry point and booked himself out on the plane that brought him.

"This is an extreme case but it is significant when compared, for example to Singapore, where the Singapore Development Corporation meets investors at the airport and meetings with ministers and senior government officials are speedily and efficiently organised," he said.

Swissair named best airline

READERS of "Executive Travel," a British business magazine, have voted Swissair "Airline of the Year" for 1989. Second place went to Singapore Airlines, while Thai International came in third. Swissair was further elected best airline in Europe for short-haul flights. The poll was conducted among some 50,000 business people, who jointly make around 1.25 million flights a year.

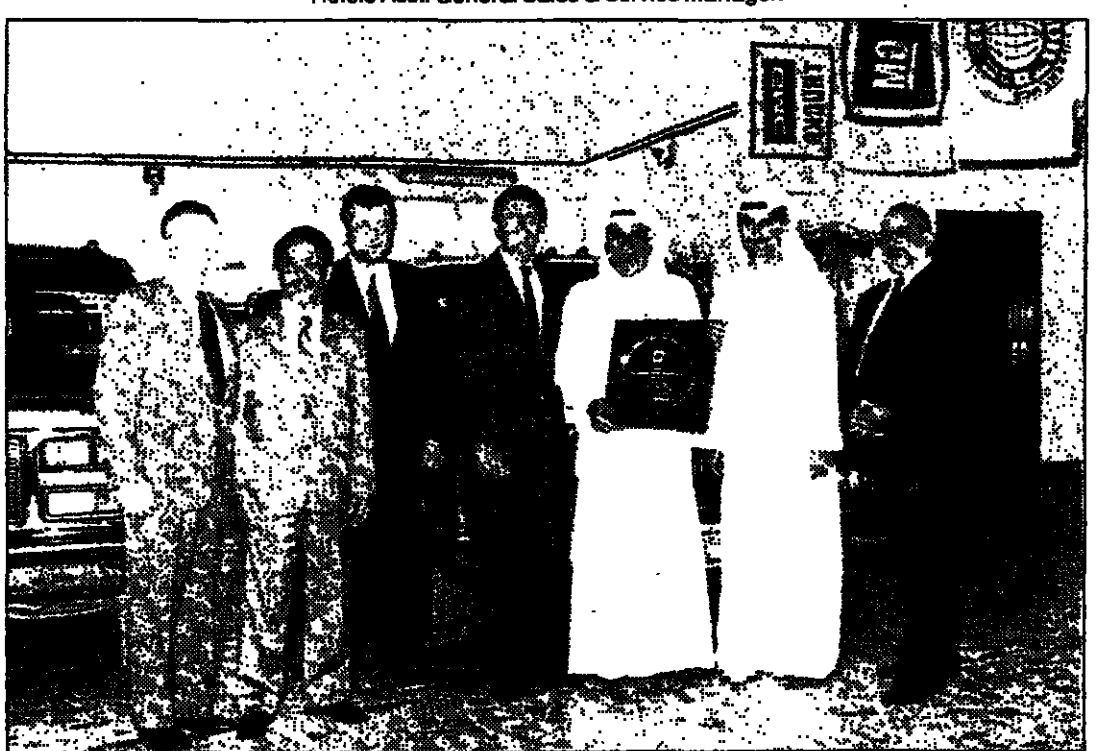
Readers voted Swissair's cabin staff the most efficient in the world, while Swissair ground personnel were similarly awarded first place for their services on the ground. The Swiss national carrier was also voted No. 1 worldwide for the quality of the wines and food it serves to over 20,000 passengers every day.

In last year's poll, Swissair came third overall behind British Airways and Singapore Airlines.

In the airports section of the survey, Zurich remained in third place, behind Changi, Singapore and Schiphol, Amsterdam.



D.R. Hermiller, President of G.M.O.D.C., M.S. Behbehani, President of M.S. & R.Y. Behbehani and Mr. J.J. Hefele, Asst. General Sales & Service Manager.



G.M. and Behbehani executives.

G M-Behbehani mark silver jubilee

Prosperous partnership

IN celebration of 25 years of solid, prosperous partnership, Dale R. Hermiller, President of General Motors Overseas Distribution Corporation (G.M.O.D.C.), presented during his recent visit to Kuwait - Mohammed Saleh Behbehani, President of M.S. & R.Y. Behbehani with a special shield to commemorate their Silver Jubilee.

Hermiller praised the continuous effort and effective motivation of M.S. & R.Y. Behbehani - essential in making GMC and Buick a success

in this country and a household name for high quality of both performance and style. The Buick family of Sedans, - Electra, Le Sabre, Regal, Century, and of 4 Wheel Drive - the Suburban & Jimmy - now rank as Kuwait's most popular vehicles, overwhelmingly endorsed for their long-recognised tradition of good performance.

This is further enhanced with the efficient and professional after sales service extended to customers. A team of highly experienced tech-

nicians dedicate themselves to the commitment of earning the trust of G.M. customers, providing the extra attention to detail, in a personalised professional service.

Accompanying Hermiller during his visit were J.J. Hefele, Assistant General Sales & Service Manager and the Middle East RMO team, who praised the positive attitude and support of M.S. & R.Y. Behbehani continuing collaboration and success.

Billion-dollar boom expected in Turkish insurance

ISTANBUL, Sept. 27, (Reuters): The grimy palaces of Istanbul's ageing insurance giants are being shaken as foreign-backed joint ventures muscle into what some bankers see as Turkey's multi-billion dollar growth industry of the 1990s.

"Insurance will be just like Turkish banking in the early 1980s - deregulation, opening to foreign investment and huge latent demand," said Haluk Ulusoy of Saudi American Bank.

New laws would multiply premium income ten times in two years to five trillion lira \$2 billion in 1990, State Minister Guner Taner told businessmen recently.

Insurance company managers agreed that sharp increases could occur this decade but believed such growth would

take years in what is still a tariff-bound, unrealistic sector.

"A year's third party insurance for a car still only costs the equivalent of a couple of hamburgers," said Levent Bozdere of Cigna-Sabancı Sigorta as insurance company.

But industry sources say several multinational insurers seeking to join those who have taken stakes in the market since the insurance statute book started to be rewritten in 1988.

A new five billion lira (\$2 million) capitalisation rule drove a few foreign companies away, but others have flocked to join a market of 55 million Turks who currently spend less than five dollars a year each insuring themselves.

Commercial Union Assurance Co. Plc.

Cuac L. Tokio Marine and Fire Tokio T. and others have entered into joint ventures, three other multinationals have incorporated local branches and many more market entries are rumoured.

Turkey's biggest insurer is Anadolu Anonim Turk Sigorta as, whose smug-crusted building on a Bosphorus quayside recalls a bygone age.

The company had one sixth of nearly 600 billion lira (then \$500 million) premium income in 1988. The rest was shared between 13 foreign and 22 Turkish companies.

Between 1965 and 1988 no new companies were licensed. Tariff differentials were sometimes adjusted only once a decade and gross premiums income only slightly exceeded inflation.

"You could say it is sleepy, and only half the people actually believe reform is possible," said Hayati Ecer, head of Turkey's 38-man insurance supervisory board.

From Oct 1 companies were allowed to vary premiums 10 per cent each side of tariffs for some policies and Ecer said margins would be widened further to encourage competition and compulsory insurance applied to dangerous businesses.

Guner Taner said tariffs and liability coverage for cars would be raised and some industry rumours say the whole tariff system might be abolished.

Competition on the basis of credit was also undermining the market, part of an apparent lack of will to enforce new rules for tied sales agents, insurers said.

Electronic bond trading planned

ZURICH, Sept. 27, (Reuters): Switzerland's three major stock exchanges announced plans today to switch bond trading from exchange floors to computer screens in 1991.

If the project gets official approval, bond dealers in Zurich, Geneva and Basel will no longer go to the exchanges but will stay at their banks, transacting deals over their screens.

"We can't go on as we are now. We have capacity problems and must create space. We're bursting at the seams," Gian Pietro Rossetti, chairman of Association Tripartite Bourse (ATB), told a news conference.

The three exchanges, which set up ATB to co-ordinate technical projects, want to free more floor space for other business such as a growing trade in share warrants.

The Electronic Bourse System (EBS), as the new bond trading set-up will be called, will come three years after the opening of the Swiss Options and Financial Futures Exchange (SOFEX), the world's first fully-automated options trading and clearing system.

SOFEX made news early last month when its computer system failed for several days, forcing dealers to return to conducting business by telephone.

Tokyo share prices

Nikkei stock average: 35370.57 (-74.25)	Nippon Steel Corp.....763
Volume: 1.0 bln shs	Nippon Denso Co. Ltd.....2550
Yen exchange rate: 141.35	Nitazuko Corporation.....1440
Name of stock	Onoda Securities.....3300
Advantest Corporation.....5700	Okuma Machinery Work.....1820
Ajinomoto.....1480	Onward Kashiwaga Co.....2330
Alps Electric.....1790	Orix Corporation.....7340
Amada.....2060	Pioneer Electronic Co.....5300
Asahi Chemical Indos.....1280	Renown Look Inc.....2670
Asahi Glass.....2350	Sanyo Electric Co.....925
C. Itoh Co.....969	Secom Co. Ltd.....7970
Canon Inc.....1920	Shin-Etsu Chemical Co.....1800
Casio Computer.....1440	Shindengen Electric.....1200
Daiichi Kangaro.....2240	Sony Corporation.....8590
Daiichi Seiyaku.....3220	Sumitomo Elec. Ind.....1570
Dainippon Pharmaceut.....2870	Sumitomo Metal Ind.....725
Daihatsu Corp.....1790	Takeda Chemical Ind.....2490
Eisai.....2500	TDK Corporation.....3750
Fanuc Ltd.....7950	Tokio Marine Fire.....2090
Fuji Photo Film Co.....4740	Tokyo Elec. Power.....5890
Kawasaki Heavy Ind.....1050	Tokyo Electron Ltd.....3400
Hitachi Credit.....1620	Toppan Printing.....2060
Hitachi Koki.....1930	Toray Industries Inc.....992
Hitachi Ltd.....1570	Toshiba Corporation.....1230
Hitachi Metal.....1580	Toyota Motor Corp.....2550
Honda Motor.....1950	Yamaha Electric Mfg.....1380
Ito-Yokado Co. Ltd.....4980	
Kajima Corporation.....2100	Banyu Pharm.....1880 up 30
Kawasaki Heavy Ind.....1050	Calpis.....1460 up 10
Kobe Cast Iron Works.....995	Canon.....1920 up 20
Kokusai Elec.....3450	Daiwa House.....2740 up 20
Komatsu Ltd.....1280	Fuji Bank.....3610 up 30
Kyocera Corporation.....5750	Fuji Elec.....1100 up 10
Marui.....3630	Fuji Photo.....4740 up 40
Matsumoto Comm. Ind.....3150	JAL.....17200 dn 200
Matsumoto Electric.....2240	Kajima.....2100 up 10
Mazda Motor Corp.....1060	Kirin.....1920 up 20
Mitsubishi Corporation.....1540	Komatsu.....1280 up 10
Mitsubishi Estate.....2480	Mitsui Bank.....2580 dn 20
Mitsubishi Heavy Ind.....1160	Nissan.....1480 dn 20
Mitsui Real Estate.....2730	Nomura.....3500 dn 30
Mizuno Corporation.....1920	Sekisui.....1450 up 10
Mochida Pharmaceutical.....3850	Sharp.....2240 dn 40
Morisei Co. Ltd.....930	Shiseido.....1530 dn 30
NEC Corporation.....1870	Yokogawa.....1890 up 10
Nikon Corporation.....1480	
Nippon Shiman Co. Ltd.....1900	Yokogawa.....1890 up 10

Bombay prices

BOMBAY Stock Exchange - Closing Prices (Rs.) As on Sept. 27.	Indrayan.....82.50
ACC.....258	Indrol.....250
Asia Paint.....200	JK Synthetics.....74
Brooke Bond.....89	Larsen and Toubro.....101
Bajaj Auto.....307.50	Mather PL.....131.50
Baroda Rayon.....727.50	Kulkand.....16.35
Bombay Dyeing.....125.50	Master Shri.....13.50
Century Spinning.....2175	Mahindra.....94
Colgate.....172.50	Nico.....660
BSE Index.....726.51	Nocil.....1085
Deepak Fert.....29.75	Orkay.....16.75
EL Hotel.....60	Premier Auto.....66.25
Esakay.....113.75	Pisco.....23.50
GFPC.....23.25	Pfizer.....70
Grain.....163.75	Raymond.....102.50
Grasim.....98.75	Reliance.....48
GE Ship.....41.65	Spic.....77
Gilindia.....94	Siemens.....48
Hindococ.....130	Sud Mills.....77
Hind Lever.....100	Tata Power.....332.50
Hindalco.....247.50	Tata Chemicals.....117.50
Hindmotor.....33.75	Tisco.....121.5
ITC.....69	Telco.....1025
Indian Organic.....52.50	Volta.....945
	Nat Index.....381.04

(Compiled by Kuwait India International Exchange Co.)

هكذا من الأهل

VARIETY

Chandra to shine again

Amrish Puri short of time

By Firoze Rangoonwalla

IF there is one film director's name that people raise their invisible hats (or visible hands) to, then it is N. Chandra. While Subhash Ghai or Mansoor Khan with Nasir Hussain may have given one big hit at considerable cost and trouble, N. Chandra very smoothly gave three hits in a row, and that too with a considerably low budget.

While people are still talking about his first hat-trick of jubilees (*Ankush*, *Pratigast*, *Tazaabi*), Chandra is getting ready for a second one. He has three new films on hand, in the same way. Just as he had directed the first two for other producers and made the third for himself, he is now directing *Humnaa* and *Yugandhar* for outsiders and producing *Narasimha* for himself. Unlike the very first two films introducing new faces and talents, the present three are all star-studded and big-budgeted.

Anyone who talks with Chandra gets a feeling that he had been to the slum areas and met the smartest man there who outwardly looks dumb or dull. This is obvious because Chandra himself hails from these low-lying bastions and has no reservations about it. In fact, he admits: "Ankush was like our own life story. We friends had observed living, as well as working in films, in the raw. Nobody knew about her and we wanted recognition. So we prepared a story of four street boys."

What was the message of *Ankush*. Did it resemble *Pratigast*? The different characters of *Ankush* are still living in these areas, says N. Chandra whose full name is Chandra Narvekar but who has shortened it in the South's style. "We wanted to show those people, the social injustice and neglect they suffer just because they are poor or jobless. It is this discontent which gives rise to the violence of today. In *Pratigast*, it was the same anger against the rulers of the country, against police and politics."

Chandra did not gain anything from the crores earned by *Pratigast*, as he was ignored as a mere director. That's why he did not even attend the jubilee functions. But what grievance could he have after his own *Tazaabi*? "Well, film people just can't digest anybody's success. They began to say there is nothing in the film. It ran only because of a hit song. When elderly respected people also talk like that, one feels terrible. The film was made with so much thought and effort."

The great popularity of the Ek Do Teen Char song is accepted by Chandra but he argues: "It was

also filmed in unusual ways. But a song can't pull a film for 30 or 40 weeks. People can easily bear the song on cassettes or see it on video — TV. They also play and sing it themselves. Why should they come to the theatres? There were many other things they wanted to see again and again. A very popular song, in fact, becomes a handicap. People make a mental picture of it in advance. If the actual picturising does not come up to that level, the film is affected."

So for the future what have you thought, written and planned? "My *Humnaa* is almost ready. It has also been sold for all areas."

It's a strong attack on urban life and the crimes it cradles. It does have glamour and dazzle also. Dharmendra is doing a central role and he's superb. With him are Anil Kapoor, Meenakshi, Kimi, Anupam Kher etc. The second film *Yugandhar* is also getting ready, with Mithun, Sanjeeta Bhatnagar, Kiran Kumar, Kabir Bedi and others. It's a dacoit drama with a difference. We have put such a sensational new angle that people will be shocked. It is shaping out well. I am just writing and directing. No other headaches."

And finally on N. Chandra Production's next *Narasimha*: "It is only half complete but all distributors have bought it. No territory is open. They have faith in my work. This film has Sunny and Dimple in totally new roles, with talented new artists Ayasha Julka, and Ravi Behl along with Om Puri. He adds: "It's a strong mind-shaking film. I have shot it in Nasik town, just like *Pratigast*."

What are Chandra's ambitions? "To make all kinds of films. People should wonder: 'Look, what a wide range he has covered in his career.' But only powerful themes and characters inspire me. I can pick a story from anything that happens in life, an accident, an event and turn it into a film. I have enough ideas."

After the flopping of a few films, even Meenakshi Sheshadri is out to win directors and influence producers. She has shed her intellectual (outer) garb and tries to be mixy with the hoi polloi. She could tolerate even director Anil Sharma for a couple of hours, which is a challenge to her endurance.

When Chhukchi Pande's doctor parents were raided by the income-tax guys, the young brash hero went around taking pride over the fact that he had



Amrish Puri: villain

been raided. Otherwise, he would not stand comparison with other rich and famous stars. Similarly he almost shed the producers' association for not putting him on the list of banned and busy stars and thus got himself included.

Pooja Bhatt is the latest to pose a threat to Pooja Bedi. The first girl has a famous father Mahesh (Bhatt) and a film which is itself called *Daddy*. The second girl has only one strange film *Vish Kanya* and a flop actor Kabir (Bedi) as father.

AMRISH PURI

Q. Have you forgotten your days on the professional stage? Have you given up such superb performances like *Adhe Adhure*, for ever?

A. No, never. I consider the stage as my original source of recognition. I still do theatre like Dube's *Teen Ekanki*. But time poses a problem. Moreover, stage acting may be very good but how many people get to know of it?

Q. Then again, your first entry into cinema was through art films, like *Nishant*, *Aakrosh* etc. Are you neglecting them now?

A. Tell me where are the real art films? If someone does approach me then I do it, like I did the TV serial *Tamas*, though I had very little time.

Q. You are the top villain of commercial films, being most in demand. Are you not fed up of playing the same type of roles again and again?

A. Once it becomes a profession, you have to follow the routine. And I have no control over the writers and

directors for what they want me to do.

Q. But you can surely add your own contribution?

A. I try to make the characters look as different as possible. I have my say in the make-up, get-up, garments and some peculiar mannerisms.

Q. Did you coin the catchphrases. Like *Mogambo Khush hui*?

A. It was done in consultation with the writer. I make my improvising during the shooting. In *Ajooba*, I will have the popular line *Shaitan Zindabad* spoken in different ways.

Q. Are such gimmicks necessary for villainy?

A. I am not in favour of them. But sometimes they help the character and also catch the public fancy, like tapping of fingers on a table or winking with a smile etc

Video Corner

Terror in the abyss

Gibson wields lethal weapon

By Shaun Seekins
Special to the Arab Times

MEL GIBSON first jumped to stardom with the *Mad Max* series and it's thanks to a mad LA detective Martin Riggs, that he's now back on top of the pile. The 1987 hit *Lethal Weapon* made more than \$100 million at the box office, his relationship with fellow cop, Roger Murtaugh, played by Danny Glover, working very well. Now we have the sequel, *Lethal Weapon 2*. In the new story Riggs has emerged from the depression created by his wife's death. He no longer sticks his gun in his mouth, this time around he's more likely to sit and watch television with his dog. But this inactivity is very short lived, he and Murtaugh are assigned the rather undignified task of guarding a mob accountant, little knowing that he is the key in a case they have been trying to break for months. A drug smuggling ring led by a South African official protected by diplomatic immunity.

Although Murtaugh's eldest daughter nursed a heavy crush on Riggs in *Lethal Weapon* she returns in the sequel with a boyfriend, and one of the funniest moments in a film in which there are many must be the moment when she appears in her first TV commercial. Riggs is also given a new love interest, a secretary at the South African consulate, played by British actress Patsy Kensit. Mel Gibson gets into many dangerous situations in this movie, from acting as cow-catcher on the front of a speeding breakdown truck to being dropped in the ocean trussed up in a straight-jacket with lead weights attached. However, he manages to survive to continue his battle against the evil Arjen Rudd (Joss Ackland), the diplomat who launders his drug profits in Los Angeles. Rudd's chief executioner, Pieter Vorstedt (Derrick O'Connor) has told Riggs that he was responsible for the death of his wife four years earlier, and Riggs takes off after the gang like a man possessed.

The most spectacular stunt in the film is the destruction of a \$350,000 house that took 10 weeks to build. The story has Riggs forcing the gang out into the open by literally pulling the props from under their house with his pick-up truck. As the house is built on the side of a cliff, it is the ultimate one take shot, there's no going for a re-take if the camera jams. To overcome this no fewer than 10 cameras were used to record the event. All this results in a non-stop thriller that has you on the edge of your seat one minute and rolling around the next, one not to miss.

Remember how those body-switching comedies were



Mel Gibson and Danny Glover in 'Lethal Weapon.'



Mastrantonio and Harris at Deepcore.

released last year before 20th Century Fox finally got it right with *Big*? That same studio may find itself in the same fortunate position with *The Abyss*, the third in a series of thrillers about terror beneath the ocean's surface. There's no doubt that this thriller will be compared to *Alien(s)*, just like *Deepstar Six* and *Leviathan* were, but the difference here is that James Cameron is the director. James Cameron directed and despite all the problems during shooting (which took place inside an abandoned nuclear power plant in South Carolina) has ended up with a worthy successor to his earlier hits. The story revolves around a group of civilian workers manning *Deepcore* (an underwater oil drilling rig) who are joined by a team of Navy Seal (Sea, Air and Land) commandos to investigate a cataclysmic incident involving an American nuclear submarine that is lying on a deep shelf in the Caribbean Sea. *Paranoia* drives the action as the head Seal suffers delusions due to high pressure nervous syn-

drome (a rare but real illness in pressurised air environments) and puts the whole operation in danger. He struggles with rig foreman Bud Brigman (Ed Harris), and Brigman's pushy estranged engineer wife Lindsey (Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio). "Tool pusher" Brigman and his crew of roughnecks have to contend not only with the Seal but also with a storm that knocks out their communications with the surface and results in heavy damage to *Deepcore*.

Lindsey Wagner stars in a new made-for-TV Best Seller *Voices of the Heart*, several series continue, *Hard Cases*, *Ticket To Ride*, *Howard's Way*, *Neighbours* and *Eastenders*. Other releases this week include *Funland*, *Teen Witch* and a good romantic drama *The Tunnel* starring Jane Seymour and Peter Weller.

The above films are by Courtesy of the Video Club, Salimiya, Tel: 5724372, Video Nurf, Salhia Complex and VFI Farwaniya or Fintas.

I will not cheat myself, says Khashoggi

(Continued from Page 9)

"These issues reminded me of many things that are occurring in the other world — the Third World countries where poor people continually live a prisoner's life — despite this, they survive. In jail, I remembered many things, but never became desperate or dejected or sad. I considered the issue an experiment and have several incidents to remember. Indeed Ahmed, our roots as Muslim provide us with an inner strength and never lead us to nervous tension — especially when we surrender our affairs to Allah, firmly believing in our faith. These roots infuse in us virtues of patience and courage. During my stay in jail, I went back to my soul. It was a great opportunity to recollect — an opportunity that was previously denied me purely due to my pressing business commitments."

I told Adnan that after reading in the paper that there was a possibility that he could face a year in jail, I was curious to learn how he felt on the possibility of losing his paradise of happiness with his fleet of private planes, yachts, villas, palaces, and the luxurious and legendary life.

Adnan said: "Believe me Ahmed, I realised from the very outset that what was being written and said about me, was meagre exaggeration that usually accompanies cases. However, I have had an experience with the American judicial process and thus I did not feel desperate. Now, I am awaiting the decision of the court — hopefully, the decision will be in my favour and I will be vindicated. Thus, Ahmed, it was my



Jarallah (right) talking to Khashoggi

true happiness that was being threatened."

Adnan's explanation popped another question to my mind. Is it true that Khashoggi has nothing to be worried about?

No indeed. He has many issues to ponder and a lot of happiness too. But, without looking at his face — perhaps, because I do not like to read impressions, I threw him a somewhat cruel question, in a bid to ascertain what this man could lose.

"Adnan, how much money are

you worth? Some people say you own \$2 billion, others say three and some say more..." I asked.

Keeping the smile on his lips, without being able to hide a slight state of confusion, a controlled one, he said: "My properties and financial holdings are not exactly as what they used to be. I passed through very difficult situations and in the process lost quite a bit of my assets. The story of \$2 billion is over. Let us say now I own half a billion worth of assets."

Continuing, he said: "What is important to me is not how much you own, but how much you work. Secondly, with the power, influence and high-level contacts I have, I can easily rebuild my wealth again. Wealth and fortune, Ahmed, is like hair — whenever you cut it, it grows again stronger and powerful. But it is important to notice on which head this hair is growing. Please Ahmed, do not look at my head, I am bald. I am just giving you this as an example. It is important that hair is growing on a head that knows how to increase and develop money. My head can exactly do that."

"Thus, I have now begun arranging my affairs in accordance with my present situation. I have begun restoring my financial activity to bring about the vital issues of income and expenditure."

"In any case Adnan, till when will you continue to indulge in this luxury of palaces, yachts, private planes, wild birthday parties, dances and songs?" I asked.

First trip

"Look Ahmed, I am not a hypocrite and will not cheat myself. As long as I have money, I will enjoy myself, since this enjoyment does not harm others. As long as I am capable of spending, I will continue to satisfy myself, my mode in life and in forming new relations and friends."

It is time to take a little from our conversation and more importantly to continue observing the hanging palace. In one of the corners I was attracted to an amazing painting. I stood in front of the painting, even

though I have no knowledge about paintings and lack the scientific qualifications as an art critic. I asked Adnan about the value of the painting and was told that he had paid only \$8 million. In another corner, I saw a skull made of bronze. I was told that it was made by a famous international sculptor and it is worth \$2 million.

There are many, many paintings spread on the walls. One is worth two million, another three, a third five and so on. These paintings were bought by Adnan years ago at very cheap prices — now they are worth a huge fortune.

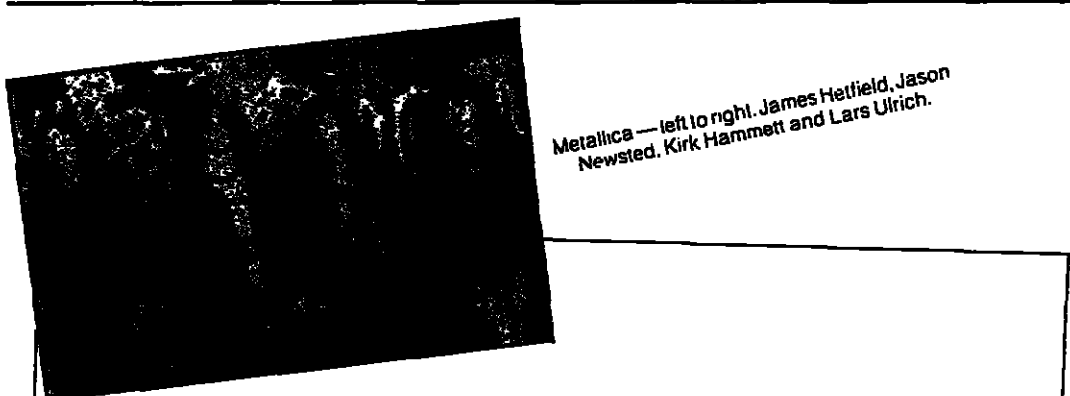
In Adnan's view, real estate and assets do not lose in value. You can enjoy them and in the end you can recover double or more than the original value.

This hanging palace in Olympic Tower in New York is an example. Adnan enjoyed it for 20 years, and if he decides to sell, he can obtain a handsome profit. And as they say "money begets money." It is important to get the first million. "The trip of the one thousand miles begins with a step."

I shifted my gaze from the splendour of the palace to take in the sights of New York City. From here you can see everything, banks, shops, its crowded space as 20 planes take off while 30 others land. You can feel the hustle and bustle of its people and crowds. This is the capital of the dollars in the world.

I turned towards Khashoggi and smiled. Of course, I did not ask him why he lives in this city.

2nd part next week



Metallica — left to right: James Hetfield, Jason Newsted, Kirk Hammett and Lars Ulrich.

Metallica's first video venture

'Cliff'Em All'

By Johnson Gilbert
Special to the Arab Times

NO BAND has played a more pivotal role in establishing power metal as an artistic and commercial success than Metallica, the American quartet who since their formation in 1981 has slowly and steadily transformed themselves from being an underground phenomenon to a mainstream success. They have come a long way from the days when they used to pack clubs in their native San Francisco by playing the most uncompromising heavy metal around. They're still playing the same brand of pull-no-punches metal, but today, with platinum albums and sold-out arena tours, Metallica are on the verge of attaining international superstardom.

The tragic death of bassist Cliff Burton is a bus accident 3 years back was the reason behind Metallica's first video venture. Released as a tribute to the brilliant bassist, the "Cliff'Em All" video is unique in that it was not only made for Metallica's fans, but also made by Metallica's fans, for "Cliff'Em All" is a compilation of bootleg live-in-concert video tapes donated to the group by fans. TV clips that were never used, home footage and personal photographs, etc.

Therefore the quality in places of some of the songs in this 90 mts. video is understandably weak. At the same time it is a welcome departure from the usual high-tech, 10 camera production and overdone sound that are usually favoured by other groups. The raw and raunchy musical intensity of Metallica is captured on video exactly as it was seen by one of the audience giving the viewer the feeling that he's the one holding the

video camera. From the brooding strains of the classic "Fade to Black" to the sonic fury of tracks like "Master of Puppets" and "Whiplash", Metallica's "Cliff'Em All" video packs in all their songs delivered with a jackhammer style that is all original Metallica.

"Two Of One" is the first real video made by Metallica and features two versions of their chilling opus "One" from the "And Justice For All" album. The video was voted No. 1 in the MTV Dial-In show proving the continued rising popularity of this band.

Running time 110 mts. approx.

Afro-American Beat Vol. 1

Afro-American Beat Vol. 1 is an all-black artists compilation featuring the best of today's soul, Funk, Rap, Reggae, Rhythm 'N' Blues Artists, including the 'Godfather of Soul' James Brown and 'Queen of Soul' Gladys Knight. Jody Watley appears along with Rap artists Eric B and Rakim in the steamy video of their current chart-topper 'Friends' — Bobby Brown shows off his latest dance steps on 'Every Little Step'.

Running time 120 mts. approx.

Video Collection II 1989

Here's the one that everybody's been waiting for! The Video Collection II 1989 has finally been released and following the high standards set in the previous Video Collection series — this 30 song compilation contains all the best and the latest hits released this summer.

Running time 120 mts. approx. Music Videos available at The Video Club, Salimiya. Tel: 5724372.



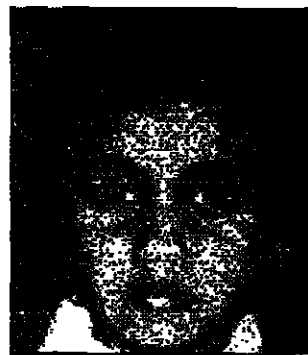
Sara Iqbal celebrates her birthday today, September 28. Happy birthday from parents, friends and family.

Sara goes to the International School of Pakistan and likes reading.



Christopher Schmidt celebrates his 7th birthday on September 30. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Christopher goes to the Surra English School and likes swimming.



Sana Dalvi celebrated her 4th birthday recently. Birthday greetings from parents, family and friends.

Sana likes swimming and fishing.



Abbas Syed celebrates his 5th birthday today, September 28. Happy birthday from parents, friends and family.

Abbas goes to the International School of Pakistan and enjoys colouring.



Sarah Pereira celebrates her 3rd birthday on September 30th. Happy birthday on September 30. Happy birthday from dad, mama, relatives and friends.

Sarah likes colouring.



Raja Hanifi celebrates his 10th birthday on September 29. Happy birthday from parents, friends and family.

Raja goes to the Fahaheel-Pakistan School and likes swimming.



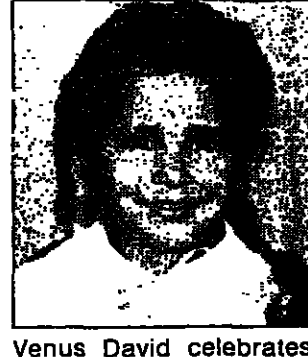
Aisha Butt celebrates her birthday on September 29. Happy birthday from parents, friends and family.

Aisha goes to the Carmel and likes reading and painting.



Shereen Mohiuddin celebrates her 4th birthday today, September 28. Happy birthday from parents, friends and family.

Shereen likes ballet and dancing.



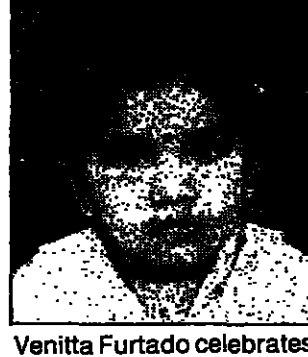
Venus David celebrates her 5th birthday on September 29. Happy birthday from parents, friends and family.

Venus goes to Carmel School and likes swimming.



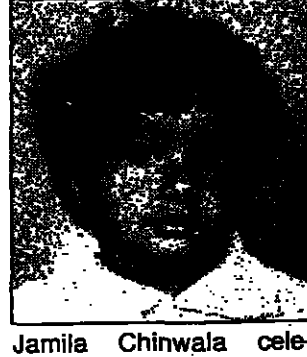
Carin D'Mello celebrates her 7th birthday today, September 28. Happy birthday from parents, friends and family.

Carin goes to the Indian School and likes reading and cartoons.



Vanitta Furtado celebrates her 6th birthday on September 30. Happy birthday from parents, friends and family.

Vanitta goes to the Carmel School and likes drawing.



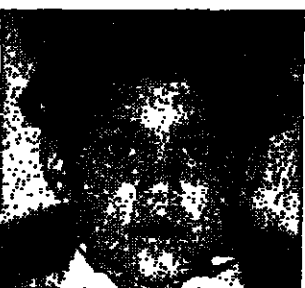
Jamila Chinwala celebrates her 3rd birthday today, September 28. Happy birthday from parents, friends and family.

Jamila likes watching television.



Starsky Gomes recently celebrated his second birthday. His family surprised him with his first birthday party ever! Starsky spent the evening dancing with his best friend Vanessa.

Going to school



Fahed Al Abdel Ghani, a four-year-old Kuwaiti started his education at the New English School this year.

Fahed wants to be a doctor when he grows up.



Amani Ghazi, a 4 1/2-year-old Pakistani started her education at the International School of Pakistan this year.

Amani wants to be a doctor when she grows up.



Adnan Kasu a 2 1/2-year-old Indian, started to go to nursery school for the first time this year.

Adnan wants to be a doctor or join the C.I.D. when he grows up.

First and last

The French explorer Jacques Cartier was the first European to make a detailed exploration of Eastern Canada and the St Lawrence river between 1534 and 1536.

The 'cathode ray tube', the main part of every television set, was first developed in Germany by Karl Ferdinand in 1897.

The first five of the world's tallest volcanoes are all in the Andes, the main mountain range of South America.

Morris dancing probably came from Spain in the first place, and the word 'morris' was first 'Moorish', the ancient Spaniards were the Moors.

The world's first launderette opened in America in 1934.

Margarine was first produced in 1863 as a result of a competition to find a substitute for butter.

According to Archbishop Ussher, who lived in the seventeenth century, God created the world at 9.000 am on Sunday 23 October, 4004 BC.

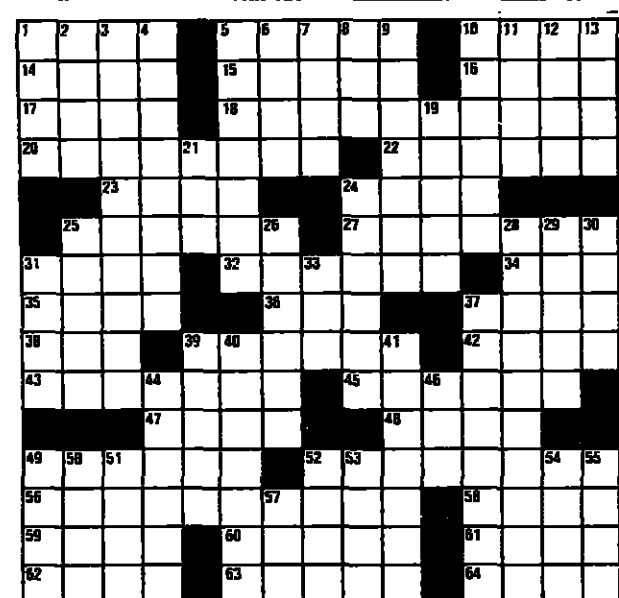
The first human heart transplant operation was performed in Cape Town, South Africa, on 3rd of December, 1967.

If a man and a hippopotamus had a race over a short distance, the hippo would finish first.

What comes next?

A	C	E	G	I	...
2	4	8	16	32	...
S	M	T	W	T	...
1	3	6	10	15	...
J	F	M	A	M	...

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Leaping —
 - Silken
 - Island of song
 - Tel —
 - University of Maine site
 - Feld
 - Part of Caesar's boast
 - Christie's sleuth
 - earth
 - Dynamites
 - Rex Reed, for short
 - Target for Gooden
 - Followers
 - A lack of red blood cells: Var.
 - Blunders
 - Caretaker for baby
 - Taking org.
 - Paper size
 - in the sky
 - Make do, with "out"
 - Got to Be Me
 - Arab chieftains
 - Hawaii's state bird
 - Sure
 - Sheathing bract
 - Nest eggs: Abbr.
 - Brainstorm
 - Fills with resolution
 - Out of the ordinary
 - Gardner's sleuth
 - Devilkins
 - "I cannot tell —"
 - Bring into agreement
 - Treatop residence
- DOWN**
- Require
 - Mauna Loa output
 - Wicked
 - Sleuth of dime novel fame
 - Keeper of birds
 - Longitudinal body segments
 - go brag
 - Subject for Gertrude Stein
 - Office holders
 - Harvest machine
 - An acid salt
 - "Held" locale
 - Spirited song
 - Roman calendar date
 - Place of worship
 - Diamond —
 - Etonians' mothers
 - Treasure —
 - Matures
 - Spillane sleuth
 - Peace goddess
 - African fox
 - Majestic
 - Gravat
 - Passing through a portal
 - Kind of bird
 - Of a noxious atmosphere
 - Fishing lure
 - Having layers
 - Fuss
 - Pair of matched horses
 - Distant: Comb form
 - Mills of the opera
 - That
 - Treat for a
 - Down
 - Lhasa —
 - D-day vessels
 - Clay, today

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

HOP! RICE! SIDS
EARN ONATE PLOT
SHOOTSTHEBREEZE
TUB ICON ARTEL
OFNOW COMRADE
MISUSE PATSY
EMCEE EACH PIT
SPILLEDTHEBEANS
SSS ADDE ROSSI
HATIN JONSON
ENDORSE SENSE
AARON DISC NAP
SLIPOFTHE TONGUE
EDEL SHOVE EERO
LISA TOWER BRIAN

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠QJ1083 ♥AK54 ♦A106 ♣K
Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?
A.—You are going to play in game at least, but you need time to locate your best spot. Start off by responding one spade. A jump shift needs either a better suit or a powerful fit for partner's minor.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠QJ1083 ♥AK54 ♦A106 ♣K
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
1 NT Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—It's time to show your strength. A jump shift to three hearts fits the bill nicely—second suit, strong hand, forcing to game.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠QJ1083 ♥AK54 ♦A106 ♣K
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
1 NT Pass 3 ♥ Pass
3 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?
A.—Although partner has shown no great liking for either of your suits and there might be some duplication of values in clubs, you are still good enough for one more move. The logical choice is four diamonds, bidding our your hand pattern. If partner has a five-card diamond suit, six diamonds could be on because his club losers can be ruffed in your short-trump hand.

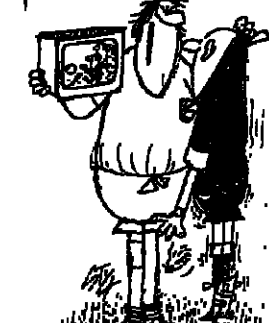
Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠9872 ♥A6 ♦10652 ♣742
Partner opens the bidding with two no trump. What action do you take?
A.—You have just enough for game if your range is 22-24 points. (If it is any lower, pass with alacrity.) Because of your ruffing value, however, you should probe for the possibility of a 4-4 spade fit. Use the Stayman Convention—bid three clubs.

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ85 ♥83 ♦J98 ♣AJ54
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♥ 2 ♦ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—You have a problem. You can't bid either black suit, three diamonds is an underbid and four diamonds overstates your holding in partner's suit and bypasses three no trump. That leaves only a cue-bid, which is simply a one-round force in the modern style. Bid two hearts.

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q87 ♥73 ♦AJ98 ♣A1063
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♥ 2 ♦ ?
What action do you take?
A.—If you use basic methods, double for penalties. That should produce at least a two-trick set and you can't be sure you have game. If you play negative doubles, you must pass, of course, and hope partner reopens with a double.



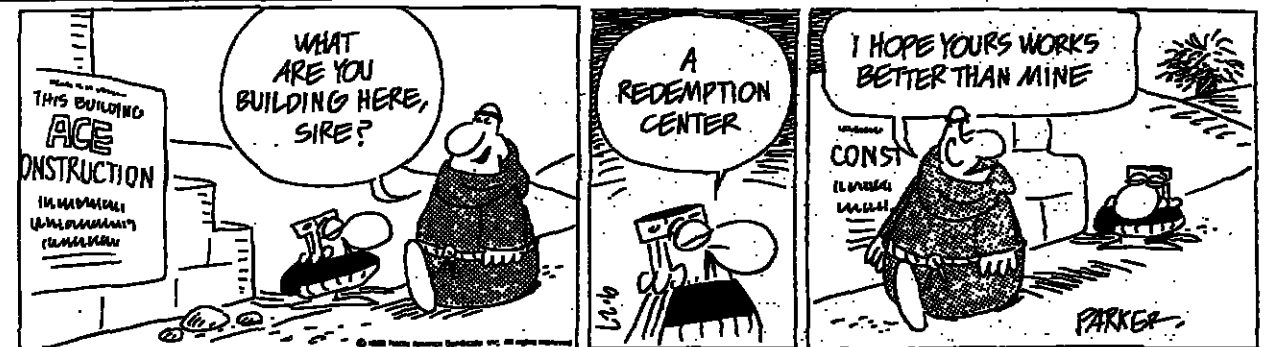
"If you've been married thirty years, it must be combat fatigue!"



"Action replay! He WAS offside — SEE?"

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You will be in a better mood than you are now, but you will soon appreciate the remedy lies in your own hands. Stop daydreaming and be more in touch with reality. You should keep calm even in the face of provocation. Be rational.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You will not be in the best of moods and must avoid getting into an argument. Make sure you get things in the right proportion: do not confuse with what is important and what is not.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You will have lots of doors open to you but you could all too easily choose the wrong one. If you expect something for nothing you will be sorely disappointed. You will have plenty of energy but must conserve it. Be tactful.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You will be in a better mood than you are now. Your lucky numbers are 24 and 43. Make sure you meet your obligations and avoid making empty promises. You should have a bit more faith in yourself. Be sincere.



Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

You should make sure you do not lose sight of reality. There is a danger of allowing work to interfere with your most personal life. You should stay out of an argument with a friend and his partner. Be tolerant.



Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

Now is a good time to do something that will have to be done sooner or later. Leave yourself with enough energy to deal with a personal matter. Do not inflict yourself on others. Be reasonable.



Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)

You must try to avoid annoying others. A complicated situation could easily get worse. Do not make a promise you do not intend to keep. Be loyal.



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

You will be able to draw the right conclusions provided you do not jump to them. Make sure you do not let a friend down. Speed limits are not there to be exceeded. Be reliable.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

You will not be in the best of moods and must beware of annoying others. You will get some advice that is far from good. Be consistent.



Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

You will find it easier to make up your mind. Do not allow work to encroach upon your private life but do work hard. Show a little more respect for your elders. Be reliable.



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

You will easily be distracted and must fight hard to combat the tendency. You are liable to come to the wrong conclusion, so take care. Make sure your diet contains enough vitamins and fibre. Be magnanimous.



Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

Do not say the first thing that comes to mind and avoid giving offence. You should ensure that your expenditure does not exceed your income. You will get some advice that is far from good. Be consistent.

Word search

A DRIVING LESSON

Driving lessons can be very frustrating if your instructor isn't good. In the hands of a competent instructor, though, all should go smoothly. With a bit of luck, you'll get through the road test on the first try!

UNIT	HAND SIGNALS	PEDESTRIANS	SLOW	TRAFFIC
BRIDGE	MEAT	Learnin's PENNY SPIN	TRIPS	
CROSSWALK	INSTRUCTOR	RADIO	STALL	U-TURN
DOODGE	LANE	RED LIGHT	START	WAIT
DUAL CONTROL	LEFT	RUNS	STEERING	WHEEL
EARSE	LINE	RUSH hour	STOP SIGN	Engine WHINE
EYE EXAMINATION OPERATOR	RUNS	STOP SIGN	STREET	WRITTEN TEST
GAR UP	PANICING	Drive SHAFT	TICKET	
GEAR	PEDAL	SHIFTS	TRIPS	

Dear Junior Readers,

Reading plays a very important role in one's life. You gain lots and lots of knowledge from books, magazines and newspapers.

You can learn about how different people live, what all these famous people did to enter our many history books. You can gain experience to get yourself out of a sticky situation (just like a hero or heroine). You can discover how to put a single object into many uses; making life more exciting and much easier. You can even learn about the different types of policies used by various countries. I suppose it is clear that there is so much knowledge you can gain from reading.

Verbally, reading, unconsciously assists in improving spelling, pronouncing words correctly and adding new words to your personal vocabulary.

If you enjoy reading, do not let new words go astray. Keep a dictionary at arm level at all times and dot down the new words with their meanings. Try to repeat the words at least ten times throughout the day in different sentences.

To help pronounce words correctly, read out loud, if an adult is present, let him or her be your listener. If you are corrected on a certain word, repeat the word several times before moving on.

Reading is great fun, it is a shame to forget about such a wonderful time passer....

Manal.

The girouse

If we use our imagination, we can make-up very, very strange things. We can mix animals together just like the girouse below. What does she look like? Colour her pretty.



A GIROUSE is part giraffe, part mouse.

IT'S amazing

The magician's trick has not worked very well. Can you help this poor rabbit to find his way back to the top hat?



Amazing facts

A Brisbane (Australian) woman was eating an oyster when she bit on a pearl 7 mm in diameter.

The eggs of the female Goeldi's frog of South America are held on her back in folds of skin.

The Basque word for God is 'Jingo.'

In the Buddhist temple at Nara in Japan there is a statue of Buddha that was cast over 1,200 years ago. It weighs 452 tons — and is the largest bronze statue in the world.

The shoes worn by Australian aborigines have soles made of emu feathers which leave no tracks.

The School Bully

By Julie Hodgson

THE big boy thumped the little boy, and snatched his apple from him. David, the little boy was frightened of Clive the school bully, but did not dare tell his parents, or the teacher. Clive had said he would get him after school, if he said anything.

Clive was a big head at school, and always pushing the little ones around.

One day, David decided that it was time this stopped. For months now, Clive had pushed him around, and taken his fruit from him, and David was scared, because Clive was bigger than him.

Clive pushed his way across the play-ground, when he saw David arrive. David held on tight to his

lunch bag.

"Give me that, or I'll thump you," demanded Clive.

"No, why should I?" David shouted.

Clive could not believe that David had said "no" to him. David continued before Clive could start.

"You leave me alone, just because you are bigger than me, does not give you the right to bully me — DOES it? No wonder you have no friends, you never will have neither — if you carry on like this". David was feeling very angry, by now.

Clive went to hit David, but David's fist punched Clive right on the nose. Clive looked shocked someone had actually stood up to him? To David's amazement, Clive



ran off crying. All David's friends cheered him. David was small in size, but he was big inside, and showed courage.

That evening, he told his mum what had happened, his mum was very proud of him. She told him that, bullies are usually cowards underneath, and never, ever be afraid to tell your parents or a teacher. It is very wrong to be bullied, as well as be a bully.

How many loaves of bread like this can you find in the picture?



"AR" Words

Directions: Put a letter in each blank to form words that fit the definitions below.

1. _ _ a r _ _

2. a r _ _

3. _ _ _ a r

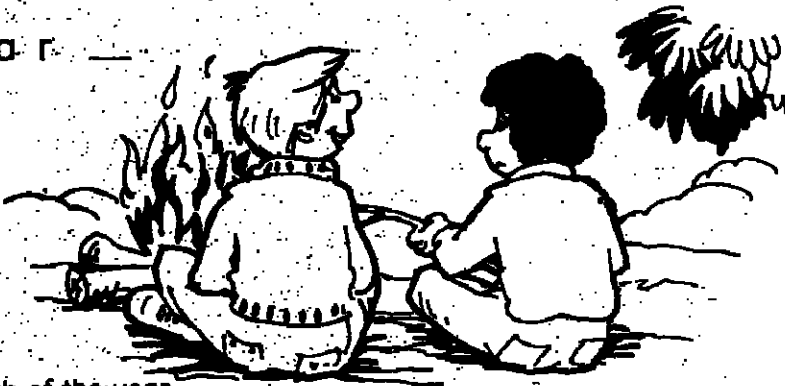
4. _ _ a r _ _

5. _ _ _ a r _ _

6. _ _ a r _ _

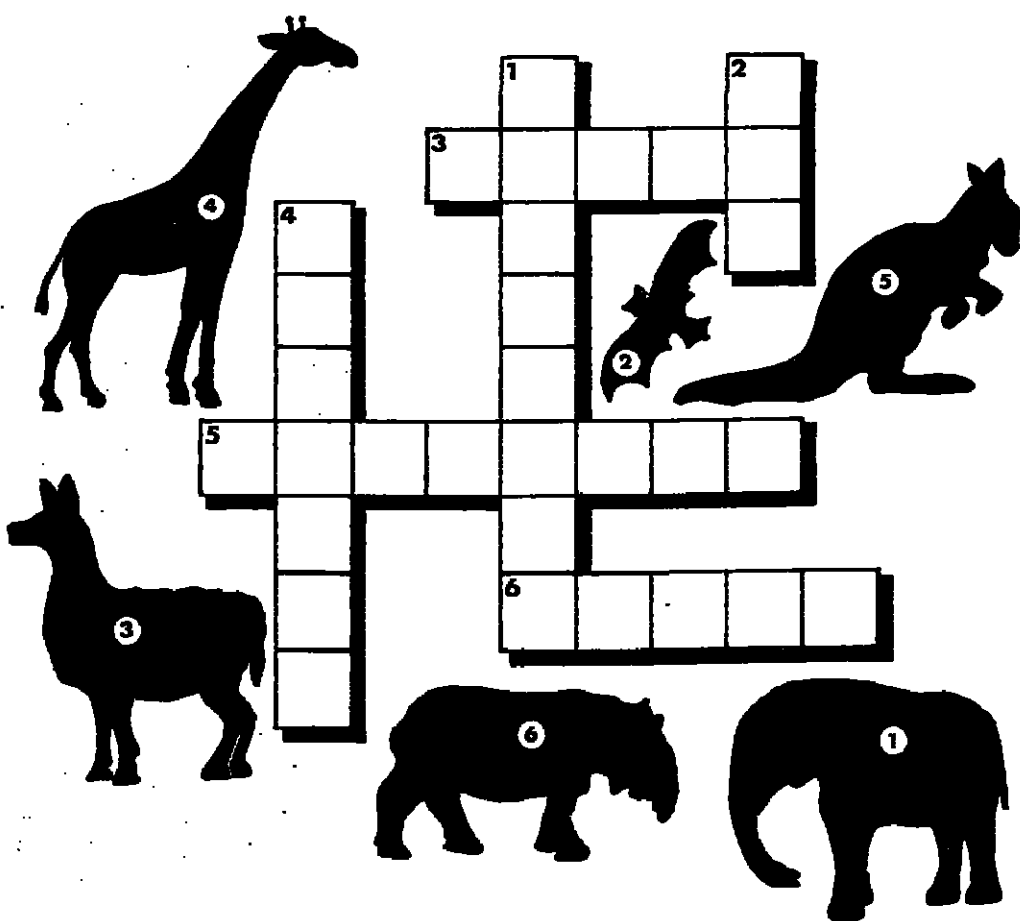
Definitions:

- The third month of the year.
- Fun with crayons, paint and clay.
- A bright flickering light in the night sky.
- Something soft, white, good to eat, that you can roast over a fire.
- Something in your body that pumps blood and beats.
- Has four wheels and a motor.



Crossword

Name all these animals and fill in the crossword



Colouring time



BIRTHDAY CARD

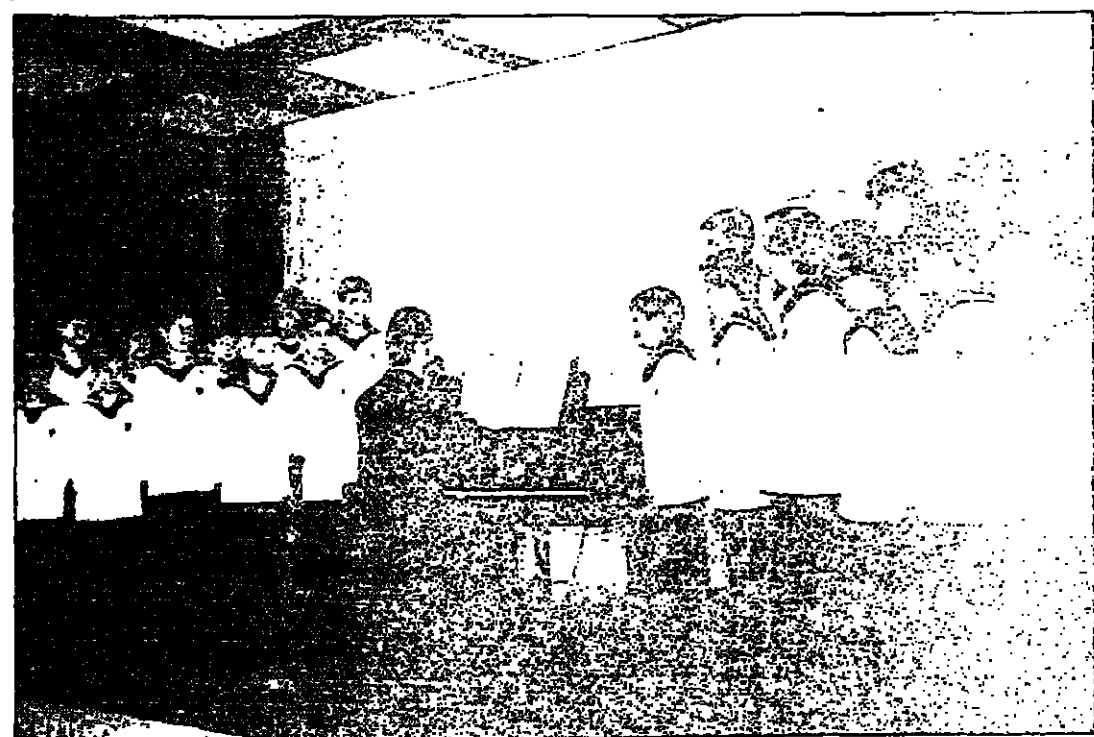
is your birthday to come soon? Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times? Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday! Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them. The details we need are:

Name: _____
Date of birth: _____
School: _____
Hobbies: _____
Telephone: _____ (confidential)

Your favourite most recent picture (4x6)

Send to:
ARAB TIMES
Junior Times
P.O. Box 2270
13023 Safat,
Kuwait
To avoid belated greetings please send within a week before the special date

EVENTS



Conductor Georg Stangelberger and the Vienna Boys Choir

A superb performance

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

THE Vienna Boys Choir delivered their 90-minute programme of choral music, operetta and folk songs on Tuesday night with charm and skill to a packed audience that rewarded it with enthusiastic applause.

The boys, aged between eight and 14, their voices delicate and pure, tackled the task that is far from child's play. They sang music written by greatest of composers, Mozart, Verdi and Schubert. They are children drawn into the world of adults, taught and expected to deliver with a discipline and professionalism of an adult. And their performance was admirably adequate to the task.

But it is the freshness and spontaneity that only children can bring to a performance that add a special value to a concert like the one of Tuesday night. One was almost relieved to see a flicker of amusement on some of the boys' faces at a wrongly timed applause. The tension and eagerness to do well, written all over their faces, was diffused by occasional giggling and brief and unadvised remarks they exchanged in between songs. It was not a group of little robots performing. It was 22 extremely talented and hard-working boys who, if not playing, were at least having a good time on the stage.

During the performance the director of the institute the boys belong to, Dr Walter Tautschnig, once a choir boy himself, was jotting down some notes on a pad. Whatever he had to say to the boys after the performance, let's hope that his remarks won't take away from the spontaneity of the shows to come.

It has been said before that the secret of the Vienna Boys Choir success is in that it manages to combine innocence of childhood with artistic maturity. This is particularly true of the boys' voices,

sopranos and altos. Nature has endowed very young boys, but apparently not the girls, with voices of ethereal beauty.

Tautschnig said at a press meeting after the concert that when girls sing they basically make noise. "A girl's soprano is something like a beep. A woman's soprano has a measure of croakiness," he said.

The boys' voices may lack power and a somewhat husky quality that women singers can counter. But they have the refinement and purity usually associated with spiritual values of highest order.

This was amply demonstrated on Tuesday night in a musically and thematically complex programme. One wonders whether an older choir could have sung a more sweet-sounding lullaby than one of the choir's sopranos.

The programme of 18th and 19th century classical music was balanced by a one-act operetta, *Hansel and Gretel*, and a potpourri of Austrian folk songs.

Performing Engelbert Humperdinck's operetta based on a fairy tale about a brother and sister, Hansel and Gretel, who get lost in the woods, the boys exchanged their sailor suit uniforms for colourful costumes and made a valiant attempt at acting. In this a 12-year-old boy called Erwin was most successful. His portrayal of the witch was brilliant and elicited laughter and applause from the audience.

The choir's superb performance was that much appreciated as the boys sang, perspiring and pouring down their foreheads, in a hall at the Kuwait International Hotel where temperature steadily rose through the concert. The air-conditioning system was switched off to prevent noise interference.

The Vienna Boys Choir is returning to Kuwait after their Gulf tour, for another performance on Oct 4.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 9.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
9.15 Sabah Al Khair News and Variety
9.30 Cartoons
10.00 Magazine D'Actualite
10.15 Mawlood Fi Al Waqt Al Daye: Arabic serial (Final Part)
11.00 Sabah Al Khair News and Variety
11.05 Achlah Wa Mlah: local Jaily serial (Final Part)
12.00 Sabah Al Khair News and Variety
12.15 Circus: foreign programme
1.00 News Summary
1.05 The World Today via Satellite
1.30 Sports Programme: local programme
3.15 Religious Programme: Children Stories: cartoon serial
4.00 Cartoons
4.30 Al Qodhban: local feature (Part two and Final), starring: Ibrahim Al Salal, Hayat Al Fahad and Ghanem Al Saleh
6.00 Night Chemists, Airlines and Official Advertisements
6.30 Cultural Film
7.30 Egypt Information Message to the State of Kuwait
8.00 Variety
8.30 Maa Al Islam: religious programme,

- prepared and presented by Dr Khaled Al Mathkour
9.00 Arabic News
10.00 Babil Habibat: Arabic feature film, starring: Yahya Al Fakhrani, Hind Mael, Samah Anwar and Sami Qafar
12.00 Thursday Late Night Show
1.15 News Summary
1.20 The World Today via Satellite
1.50 Holy Quran and Closedown

FRIDAY

- 9.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
9.25 Cartoons
10.00 Magazine D'Actualite
10.15 Special Variety
10.30 Al Ahadeeth Al Mawdo'a: Religious Programme, presented by Sheikh Salah Abu Ismael
11.00 Live from The Grand Mosque for the Friday Prayer and speeches
12.30 Alwan: Variety programme, prepared by Mohammed Al Fares and presented by Fatema Abdul Wahab
1.00 News Summary
1.05 The World Today via Satellite
1.30 Friday Break: Variety Programme
3.30 Cartoons
4.00 Khan Batran: Arabic play, starring Wajeh Abdu Ghani, Ghazwa

- Al Khaledi, Rasem Al Jamili and Asaad Al Razeq
6.00 Night Chemists, Airlines and Official Advertisements
7.00 KTV in a week: News Programme
7.30 KTV Programmes in a week
8.15 Special Popular Variety
8.40 Hadeeth Al Oshoo: Religious Programme, presented by Sheikh Ali Al Jassar
9.00 Arabic News
9.45 Wrestling
10.30 Kalema: Variety Programme, with Show Guest Mahmoud Mursi
11.45 News Summary
11.50 The World Today via Satellite
12.15 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

- 6.00 Opening Announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 The Real Ghost Busters: A cartoon series for Children
6.30 Take Hart: "Contrast" An Educational and cultural Programme for Children
7.00 Animals Of The Great North West: "Animal actions Sur Le Tip" Birds singing as a means for keeping in touch with their mates and maintaining their

- area of influence.
7.30 T. And T. Wendell's Story. Wendell finds a bag full of money and starts distributing its contents among passers by...
8.00 News in English
8.30 Murder. She Wrote "We are a Tangled Web" A mother of two sons works in another state and she has to stay away from her family... Vivian becomes by chance involved in matters where she becomes a subject of black-mailing by her second husband whom she attempts to kill and run away...
9.30 T.V.'s Bloopers & Practical Jokes.
10.30 Feature Film "The Legend Of The Golden Gun" The story of the film occurred during the Civil War in America where thieves and gangsters attack people and their properties... A man plans to avenge from those robbers.
12.15 News in Brief
12.30 Magazine D'Actualite

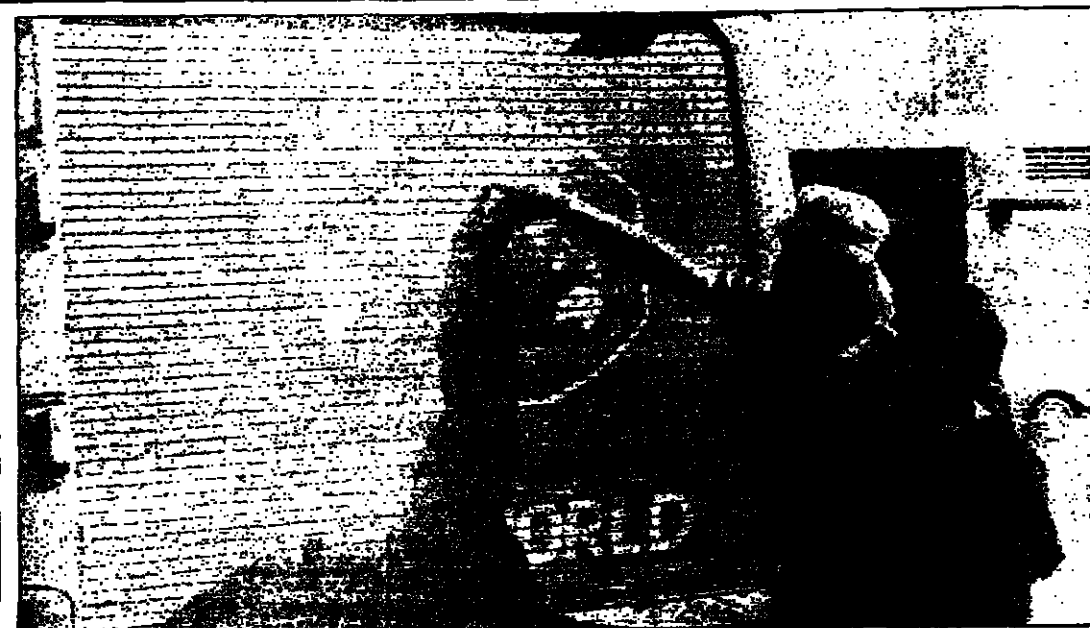
- FRIDAY
6.00 Opening Announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 Silver Hawks: A cartoon series for Children
6.30 The Kids Of Degrad Street: "Sophie Minds The Store" Sophie's

- mother is compelled to leave the town while her father is sick and Sophie has to take care of the store...
7.00 Walt Disney: "Mom's On Strike" A wife decides to go on strike and stop working in the house... Her husband and children have to do the house work... How long can they go on...
8.00 News in English
8.30 Summer 89. Recreational and entertainment activities carried out by the Touristic Enterprises Company (TEC) in various part of Kuwait...
8.45 Around The World.
9.15 Miami Vice: "To Have And To Hold" A man is murdered immediately after his marriage ceremony where one of his competitors is accused and the police team has to find the real murderer...
10.00 Valerie: "Shape Up And Move"
10.30 Movie "Desert Pass" An influential person selects a dashing young man as a chief of the police department hoping that he may exploit him for personal interests...
11.30 News in Brief
11.45 Magazine D'Actualite

CINEMA TODAY

- Al Andalus
Nuts
Salmiya
Hall Booked
Al Hamra
Arabic film
Drive-In
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Batwara
Fahadeel Open
Daata
Fahadeel
Dunraj Kumar
Al Jahra
Arabic film
Granada
Thor the Conqueror
Salsabikhat
Arabic film
Jeeb
Ustad

- Friday
Al Andalus
Nuts
Salmiya
Hall Booked
Al Hamra
Arabic film
Drive-In
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Batwara
Fahadeel Open
Daata
Fahadeel
Dunraj Kumar
Al Jahra
Jungle Assault
Granada
Fyar kiya jaa
Salsabikhat
Iron angels
Jeeb
Arabic film



Around the World: Bob Kuisbaard of Holland and Marina Faleo of France have taken 35,000 kms across two continents on their adventure trip. They have already taken them to 14 countries including Cyprus, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The couple, who are driving a converted 1952 4-cylinder Magirus Deutz fire-fighter van, are on a month's tour in Kuwait before continuing their journey to the UAE, Pakistan, India, Nepal, China and Russia.

Their ambition is to go "Around the World" but for now, they are content meeting as many people as they can in all the countries they visit. Their travel message: "There is one country — the world; one people — the human being; and one religion — love." At the moment, they are saving for visa clearance to enter the UAE, where they hope to spend at least a month. "We spend an average of 60-75 days in each country," they said. (Photograph by Tamin Saleh)



IATA and KAC honoured: Skyline Institute of Boodal Aviation facilitated Management of Kuwait Airways & Training & Development Department and International Air Transport Association for their contribution in introducing an internationally recognised diploma on Travel & Cargo Training. Adel Y. Al-Shamali, who is local co-ordinator and director of Training & Development of KAC explained to Travel & Cargo Agents the benefits of self-study programme to be able to service customer better. Robert Mauroux, Senior Executive of International Air Transport Association arrived from Geneva specially to visit Skyline Institute which is recognised as IATA-UFTAA and IATA-FIATA Authorised Training Centre offers classroom training to develop skills of students for their career development. In a specially organised function at the Sheraton Hotel on 27th Sept 89, Robert Mauroux and Adel Y. Al-Shamali were presented special plaque in appreciation and recognition of the completion of ten years of co-ordination in Kuwait. Efforts made by Skyline Institute in developing diploma for students were appreciated by the Management of Kuwait Airways & IATA. Al-Shamali presented a letter for appreciation to Kamal Puri (asst. training manager) of Skyline for the successful completion of all IATA-UFTAA & IATA-FIATA.

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Al Amal Pharmacy
Mubarak Al Kabser St.
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Hawalli and Nugra
Noora Pharmacy
Nugra, Al Othman St.
Near Barrak Mosque
Salmiya and Rumaythiya
Ebin Al Nafes Pharmacy
Hamad Al Mubarak St.
Hmoud Khalifa Al Hammedi Bldg.
Fahadeel and Almadadi
Abu Halaifa Pharmacy
Coastal Road.
Opposite to Abu Halaifa Secondary School for Boys
Jeeb Al Shuyoukh
Al Namran Pharmacy
Jeeb Al Shuyoukh,
Opposite to Jeeb Al Shuyoukh Intermediate School

- Jahra
Al Khaled Pharmacy
Jahra, Opposite to Jahra Co-Operative Society
FRIDAY
Kuwait
Baghdad Pharmacy
Abdullah Al Salem St.
Property of The Supplies Stores
Al Ojail Pharmacy
Al Mubarakiya, Palestine St.
Property of Adnan Abdul Aziz
Hawalli and Nugra
Al Kandari Pharmacy
Jabriya, Opposite to the Olympic Council, Plot 3
Salmiya and Rumaythiya
Secma Pharmacy
Baghdad St., Property of Al Roumi
Fahadeel and Almadadi
Al Ittehad Pharmacy
Fahadeel, Makkah St.,

- Opposite to the Police Station, Kheitan
Gharwa Pharmacy
Old Kheitan, North Street, opposite to the Police Station
Jahra
Al Najah Pharmacy
The Jahra Fourth Area, Plot 48, Badar Al Somai Company

PRAYERS

- Fajr 4.20 am
Zuhr 11.30
Asr 3.04 pm
Maghreb 5.37
Isha 6.55
FRIDAY
Fajr 4.21 am
Friday prayers 11.30
Asr 3.03 pm
Maghreb 5.36
Isha 6.53

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

- Kuwait Science Museum
OPEN Sat - Wed, 8 - 9 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursdays and Fridays.
Islamic Arts Museum
SAT - Thurs 9 am to 12 noon and 4.00 to 6.00 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment.
Tareq Rajab Museum
SAT - Thurs 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm; Friday 9 am to 12 noon. Collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world.

- Sadu House
SAT - Thurs 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts - rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

SOCIAL

- Hithasree
A dance programme will be held at the Indian Arts Club Auditorium, Funatics on Friday 29th September at 8.30 pm. All are invited.
Sengall Musical Dances
Drama
Nakshi Kanthar Lath The Field of the Embroidered Quilt by famous Bangladeshi poet Jasimuddin will be staged at the Star Light Theatre, Doha Entertainment City on Nov 2 and 3 by Mouchak.
For details please contact Tel: 4744490, 4893424, 4315759, 3715923, 3625456, 4742656.
St Paul's weekend
St Paul's weekend Thurs 5th to Sun 8th October. A weekend of fellowship and simulation. Held in both the city and in Ahmadi. No charge. For details and information ring 3885924. Kuwait Welsh Society
A social evening will be held on Thursday 5th October, 1989, at 8 pm. A Buffet Supper will be served. For details ring 3912384/3721383, 3625316.

- Filcheck logo
THE Filipino Chess Club in Kuwait "Filcheck" announces the start of the search for its club logo. The contest is open to all club members and

officers. The artwork must be about 8-10 cm. in height and width. Selection of the winning logo will be based on the following criteria: Creativity and Originality - 50%, Theme Execution - 30% and Visual Impact 20%. Entries must be submitted at FILCHECK headquarters or Kabayan Restaurant on or before 26 September 1989. The lucky winner will be announced during the opening of Filcheck's first active chess tournament on 29 September 1989. The winner will receive valuable prizes courtesy of Sony Supplying Store. For more details contact Edward 2421868 or 2402405.

Colva Nite
OCT 19: Annual Colva Nite at New Ballroom of Ramada Al Salem Hotel. Top Ranks in attendance. For details contact Tel: 2413884/2434776/56291-41/4310913 after 5 pm.

German Speakers Cultural Association
AFTER the summer holidays, the regular coffee morning for German-speaking ladies will start again on Sunday, Oct 1, at 10 am, at the Kuwait International Hotel, Old Failaka Room. Newcomers are particularly welcome.

Breeze 89
Tivim Centre's Breeze 89 is going to hit the floors of Ramada Al Salam Hotel's new ballroom on 26.10.89 at a social evening organised in commemoration of village festival. Top Rank and Stepping Stones will provide scintillating music. Highlights include Made For Each Other Contest, a Ball Room Competition and a lot of surprises. For further information please contact Casmiro or Mario on Tel. No. 2441860/67, after 3.30 pm.

Vienna Boys Choir
The Vienna Boys Choir will be performing again at the Kuwait International Hotel on October 4 with a new repertoire. Tickets are available at the reception. KD8,000 for adults and KD5,000 for children under 12 years. Tel: 2530000/2533000.

Moods & Melody
"Moods & Melody" performs "Geet Maala" - a presentation of pop songs from Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu films - on 12th October 1989 at Indian Arts

Circle auditorium, Funatics at 7.00 pm. For more details contact Tel: 4338579 and 2407418, after 4.00 pm.

LIL newcomers coffee
Ladies International League (LIL) newcomer's coffee: Interested in joining an international women's group? Come to newcomers coffee on Sunday, Oct 1, at 10 am. Call Mrs Neera at 3914503 or 3916939, from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm for details.

Kuwait Little Theatre - Ahmadi
Auditions for the annual pantomime will take place in the theatre foyer on Oct 8 and 9 at 7.30 pm. Anyone interested in taking part in this production, either on stage or backstage, please come along. All newcomers welcome.

Magic show
NOV 9, 10: Expatriates Club will organise the first magic show in Kuwait. Internationally known Indian magician Marco will perform at the Granada Cinema. Watch out for further details.
Kuwait Players
Kuwait Players now auditioning for an extremely funny comedy/farce (to be staged in Nov). Auditions at Messiah Beach Hotel Al Fox Room on Saturday Sept 30 from 7.15 pm. Why not give it a whirl? Ring 5625896 for more information.

The British Council
STORY-TELLING sessions: At the British Council library on Thursday September 28, at 10.30. Children of all nationalities of ages 3-7 are invited. Come and enjoy the magic books with a professional storyteller. No charge for admission but parents are advised to reserve a place for their children. We look forward to seeing you.

Sheba Sound
SHEBA Sound, a classical quartet of oboes, bassoon and harpsichord, will perform at the Mousetrap Theatre on Oct 14, at 8.00 pm - price KD4; and at Messiah Beach Hotel on Oct 15, where the performance will include a sit-down dinner for KD9, inclusive. Please ring 5382099 for reservation and look out for posters in Tanagra boutiques who are sponsoring the visit.

هكذا من الذمحل

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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Australians earn pay rises after Ashes win

MELBOURNE, Sept. 27, (Reuters): Australia's Test cricketers have earned a 20 per cent pay rise following their 4-0 thrashing of England on the recent Ashes tour.

The Australian Cricket Board said players would each be paid \$3,300 dollars (\$2,500) per Test in the 1989/90 season compared with 2,750 dollars (\$2,100) last season.

Australia play one Test against New Zealand, two against Sri Lanka and three against Pakistan this season.

Payments for one-day matches have risen to 1,100 dollars (\$800) from 900 dollars (\$700).

Players, many of whom are under contract to the board, can also earn extra money through incentives and sponsorship deals.

The board announced after its annual meeting that former Test umpire Colin Egar, who managed Australia's tour of Pakistan last year, would succeed Malcolm Gray as board chairman.

Gray retires at the end of his three-year term. The Australian team threatened to break off their tour of Pakistan in disgust at umpiring decisions. They lost the three-match tour 1-0.

And in London, rejected all-rounder Ian

Botham yesterday predicted England would suffer a five-all whitewash on their cricket tour of West Indies next year.

He refused to comment on his own exclusion but was particularly critical of the decision not to select former captain David Gower.

"I find it amazing Gower has been left out. Whoever is responsible for that decision will live to regret it," he said.

"You need experience out there. You don't go to the best arena in the world and not take your best players available."

"My heart wishes them well, but my brain

tells me 5-0."

Botham was also scathing about the decision by selection chief Ted Dexter to replace Gower with Graham Gooch.

"Six months ago the chairman of the selectors described the present captain as having as much charisma as a wet fish, and all summer he said Gower was the man for him."

The 33-year-old all-rounder, speaking at a press conference to launch a speaking tour of Britain, also said he would not now be available as a late replacement if one were needed for the tour which begins in January.

Kasparov to take on computer

NEW YORK, Sept. 27, (AP): World chess champion Gary Kasparov has vanquished all challenges since capturing the title in 1985, but none of those opponents could calculate 720,000 possible chess piece arrangements in a single second.

Deep thought can.

Deep thought, a chess-playing computer created by researchers at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, will challenge Kasparov on Oct. 22 at the New York academy of art in Manhattan. At least one chess expert thinks the computer could outlast the champion.

"Deep thought is clearly the first chess computer with the potential to draw blood and defeat the world champion," said chess commentator Shelby Lyman, who helped arrange the match-up.

Robert Byrne, chess correspondent for the New York



Kasparov: world champion

Times, disagreed: "I would say it is not yet ready to mount a serious challenge to Mr. Kasparov." But that could just be sour grapes.

Deep Thought defeated Byrne when the two squared off.

Byrne became the second chess grandmaster beaten by Deep Thought; the first was Bent

Larsen of Denver, the world's 96th-ranked player with an International Chess Federation rating of 2580 based on his tournament performances.

In comparison, the computer's rating from the United States Chess Federation is 2250; the International Chess Federation put Kasparov at 2775.

Glasnost brings changes to sport

MOSCOW, Sept. 27, (AP): Vladimir Gaskin may be the only sports writer who covered the 1984 Summer Olympics without going to Los Angeles. In fact, he never even made it to the Soviet Union.

Gaskin, who works for the world's largest sports newspaper, covered the Games by watching Finnish television in the Soviet port city of Tallinn. Politics prevented him from getting any closer to Games boycotted by the Soviet Union.

But that was before the days of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and his policy of glasnost, or openness. Now, Gaskin says, he can write about anything he decides is of interest to the 5.2 million daily readers of Sovetskii Sport.

"It is just impossible to compare the working conditions then and now," said Gaskin, the paper's deputy editor-in-chief. "Now I can say anything I'm thinking. Five years ago, it was just impossible."

Gorbachev, the Soviet leader since 1985, has radically changed what his country's newspapers are allowed to read and write. Once simply the organ of Goskomspor, the state sports committee, Sovetskii Sport no longer devotes most of its space to tales of successful Soviet and East bloc athletes.

The paper now is a saucy and often sardonic chronicler of issues that include drug scandals and alcoholism among top Soviet athletes. In July, Sovetskii Sport revealed for the first time that dozens of fans had died in a 1982 soccer stadium crush.

"I cannot imagine that I could have written in 1984 that it would be a mistake for the Soviet Union to not be in Los Angeles, though I thought that," Gaskin said through a translator.

"My chief editor would not have allowed that. In any case, he would have called Goskomspor or the Central Committee of the Communist Party," he said. "Now, the chief editor would not get any idea of calling."

Gaskin, 37, chain-smokes his way through an interview, occasionally stopping to answer one of the three phones — red, white and blue — on his cluttered desk. An ancient manual typewriter sits to one side and press passes from events around the world cover the walls.

His chief editor calls on the blue phone and Gaskin argues loudly about a story planned for the next day's paper, about a junior basketball player who was loaded with vitamins by a trainer.

Gaskin assures his boss it has been checked and rechecked for accuracy. "In the past, if some of our sportsmen defected to the West, then we would be as dumb as a fish on ice," he said. "Now, one idiot weightlifter defected to Turkey (during the recent World Championships in Athens) and we devoted our front page to this event."

"The difference is we no longer feel like the newspaper of Goskomspor or the central committee," he said, breaking into English to proclaim: "We feel ourselves free."

Sovetskii Sport still is the official newspaper of Goskomspor and Gaskin is a member of the Communist Party, but he said his main pressure now comes from readers and competing papers.

"The problem in the Soviet Union now is that every newspaper is seeing how far it can go and we have to keep up with them," Gaskin said. "Now we even love sensations and scandals, maybe more than necessary. Our newspaper now is very critical of everything and the readers love it."

Gaskin remembers how newspapers were forbidden from writing about Muhammad Ali in the early 1980s. The US boxer visited the late Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev's home in 1979 and was a frequent subject of Soviet newspaper stories.

But Soviets stopped writing about him the following year after he urged nations to join the US boycott of the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow.

Gaskin receives a monthly salary of 380 roubles, equivalent to about \$600 a month at the official conversion rate but actually worth only about \$30 because of the weak rouble.

"Every day when I come to work I see a line offering bus drivers 390 roubles a month," he said. "I can't understand that."

Sovetskii Sport has about 60 reporters in Moscow and 30 scattered around the Soviet Union, as well as up to 300 stringers based as far away as New York and Los Angeles. It is published in 56 cities, beamed across the country by a satellite.

It covers 98 sports and faces the daily challenge of meeting the needs of its widely varying readers.

Sports fans in Lithuania favour basketball, while hockey is big in Leningrad and Moscow. Estonians like cycling, wrestling is tops in the Caucasus mountains and readers in the Asian republics want coverage of equestrian sports.

Cubs take NL East title

Dodgers cut Giants down to size

MONTREAL, Sept. 27, (AP): The magic number for the Chicago Cubs is 1989.

The Cubs, given hardly a chance at the start of the year, overcame injuries and a strong field and capped their season of surprises by clinching the National League East championship last night.

Chicago won its second division title in six seasons, beating Montreal 3-2 soon after second-place St. Louis lost. And the Cubs celebrated in style, toasting themselves with one of the wildest and wettest clubhouse parties.

"You can't beat this. Nothing is better than the present," said Ryne Sandberg, the only everyday starter left from Chicago's last Division championship in 1984.

The Cubs became the first team to guarantee a spot in the playoffs of Major League baseball in North America. An amazing turnaround for a club that went 77-85 last year and then stumbled to a 9-23 spring-training record.

Sandberg's dash home in the eighth made Don Zimmer a champion for the first time in 11 years of managing, and also made meaningless a season-ending, three-game series in St. Louis.

The Cubs will open the playoffs next Wednesday night at their home stadium, Wrigley Field, all but certainly against San Francisco. The Cubs and Giants split 12 games this year.

"This is my 41st year in baseball and a lot of good things and a lot of bad things have hap-

pened to me," the champagne-soaked Zimmer said. "But this tops everything that I've ever done in the game."

After Mike Fitzgerald made the final out of the game, the Cubs started out of the dugout and met in celebration at the mound.

Greg Maddux, 19-12, allowed seven hits in 8 1-3 innings and Mitch Williams got two outs for his 36th save. Maddux is second in the League in victories, one behind Houston's Mike Scott.

Dodgers 2, Giants 1

The San Francisco Giants missed a chance to clinch the National League West championship for the second straight day, losing again to Los Angeles.

Dodgers rookie Ramon Martinez, 6-4, allowed four hits in 8 2-3 innings and Jay Howell got the last out for his 27th save. Martinez struck out 11 and walked two.

The Giants' magic number for clinching their Second Division title in three years remained at one as second-place San Diego beat Cincinnati 3-1 earlier in the night to move within four games of San Francisco.

Red Sox 9, Yankees 5

Wade Boggs singled twice in an eight-run first inning rally and raised his average to .332. He trails Minnesota's Kirby Puckett by 11 points and Oakland's Carney Lansford by five in the AL batting race.

Boston, which won for the 10th time in 11 games, got runs from eight different players in the first inning. Eight different players drove in runs, too.

Twins 7, White Sox 1

Rick Aguilera, 3-5, matched his career-best with a three-hitter and Gene Larkin and Kirby Puckett hit two-run homers.

Puckett had two hits, raising his average to .343.

Mariners 3, Indians 2

Scott Bradley tied the score

with a pinch double off Doug Jones, 7-10, and Henry Cotto drove in the go-ahead run with a two-out single as Cleveland rallied in the eighth inning.

Royals 4, Angels 0

Bret Saberhagen pitched a six-hitter to win for the 19th time in 21 decisions, leading the Kansas City Royals past California and eliminating the Angels from the American League West race.

Kansas City remained barely in contention as Oakland beat Texas 4-3. The Royals would have to win their last five games and the Athletics lose their last five for Kansas City to tie.

Padres 9, Reds 1

San Diego avoided elimination from the NL West race by beating Cincinnati.

Jack Clark and Benito Santiago each hit solo home runs for the Padres and Mark Davis saved his 43rd game in 47 opportunities.

Tony Gwynn went 1-for-4 for the Padres, an RBI double in the eighth. And slipped to .332. Will Clark of San Francisco started the night leading the League with a .335 average.

Results

American League

Pittsburgh 4, St. Louis 1

Chicago 4, Toronto 3

New York 3, Philadelphia 0

Houston 3, Atlanta 2

San Diego 3, Cincinnati 1

Los Angeles 2, San Francisco 1

National League

Boston 9, New York 5

Detroit 4, Toronto 3

Minnesota 7, Baltimore 3

Milwaukee 7, Baltimore 3

Oakland 4, Texas 3

Seattle 3, Cleveland 0

Kansas City 4, California 0

Stewart ready for fight

Holyfield wants Tyson's title

NEW YORK, Sept. 27, (UPI): Evander Holyfield, the top-rated heavyweight contender, has no interest in the fact that his next challenger, Alex Stewart, has begun his career with 24 knockouts in 24 fights.

Stewart's handlers have made much of the fact that their fighter has eclipsed the 19 knockouts champion Mike Tyson registered to start his career. As far as Holyfield is concerned, anyone is welcome to whatever marks Tyson set on the way up. All Holyfield wants is Tyson's undisputed title.

With that goal on hold, "Tyson has chosen to fight Carl 'The Truth' Williams and Donovan 'Razor' Ruddock — Holyfield agreed to fight Stewart Nov. 4 at Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Promoter Dan Duva bills the Holyfield-Stewart bout "The Challenge to Tyson" and held a news conference yesterday in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn where Tyson grew up.

"Why are we here?" Duva said. "Because this is Mike Tyson's backyard and when you're in New York and you go in someone's backyard and you challenge them, they better take you seriously."

A cardboard statue of Tyson stood in front of the dais. A banner proclaiming the name of the event, "The backyard barbecue," drew a smile from the usually serious Holyfield.

"I like that," he said over fried chicken served in honour of the barbecue.

Holyfield claimed no part of the field trip to

Brooklyn, saying "It's just another press conference to me." But his eyes briefly lit at the suggestion Tyson might make a surprise appearance. Spectators with such hopes lined the approach to the banquet hall, but Tyson did not show.

The forgotten figure was Stewart, who has been criticised for fighting no-names. He is the second-ranked contender by the World Boxing Association but not rated in the top 10 by the World Boxing Council or International Boxing Federation, all of which rank Holyfield first.

"It's natural that they'd look past me," said Stewart, nicknamed "The Destroyer." "You can see right now they don't think of Alex Stewart, they think of Alex Stewart as the weakest link to a title. Well, so did 24 other people."

Holyfield, the former cruiserweight champion, is 22-0 with 18 knockouts. He won much respect on his way up, particularly with a 10-round technical knockout of former champion Michael Dokes last March.

Holyfield said his toughest bout was against Dwight Muhammad Qawi in which he scored an upset in his 12th professional fight to take the two-time champion's junior heavyweight title.

Stewart admits he hasn't had "tough, tough fights."

"I've had difficult points, I was knocked down once by Lorenzo Canady of Canada," he said.

Petrovic may miss matches

PORTLAND, Oregon, Sept. 27, (UPI): The Portland Trail Blazers announced that multimillion-dollar Yugoslav basketball star Drazen Petrovic will undergo back surgery today and likely will miss his first NBA training camp and pre-season games.

Team doctor Robert Cook said yesterday that Petrovic had experienced a recurrence of sciatic pain in his lower back.

"Further evaluation and consultation led to the decision to surgically remove a disk fragment from the low back area," Cook said.

Petrovic will be in the hospital for about two days. Cook said he expects the 6-foot-5 guard to "gradually return to basketball activities in the next few weeks."

Trail Blazers president Harry Glickman said he expects Petrovic to play this season.

"Hopefully, he is going to be ready by the start of the season," Glickman said. "The bad news is that he will miss the training camp and pre-season play which, in his particular case, could be really critical."

Glickman added that the long-range forecast for Petrovic's recovery was "very optimistic" and he expects the guard to "produce for the Trail Blazers this season."

Riffat takes five wickets

Evergreen hold on to outlast Union

A SUPERB display of bowling skills from Dawood and Riffat carried Evergreen to an 8-run victory in their opening match of the Kifco Trophy at the Sabah Al Salem Grounds earlier this week.

Winning the toss, Union C.C. invited Evergreen to bat first. Evergreen, playing without their star players Ejaz and Raza, opened their innings through Tariq and Shehzad. Both players, playing a careful innings, took the score up to 59 when Shehzad was bowled for 22. Inam joined Tariq, who was superbly caught by Kafait in the next over.

With his individual score at 32 runs, Dawood — the acting captain — was the next person into the crease. Both players carried the score up to 105 when Inam was sent back to the pavilion for 26. Dawood stayed at the crease till the 23rd over and was bowled by Saeed for 33.

No other player except Riffat who scored 18 runs, reached the double figures and Evergreen managed only 163 runs in the allotted 28 overs for the loss of 8 wickets.

For Union C.C., Saeed was the most successful bowler with 3 wickets for 24 runs in 4 overs. Kafait and Robin got away with 2 wickets each giving 35 and 25 runs respectively. Jamil also claimed one wicket.

Union C.C. started their innings slowly with Farakh and Nadeem but suffered an earlier setback when Nadeem was trapped lbw with the total at 16. Jamil, who joined Farakh, did not last long and was caught by Shehzad for 13, which brought Shehzad to the crease. Both players played some sensible cricket and carried the score up to 102 when Shehzad got himself run-out at his personal score of 16.

The departure of Farakh in the 21st over, with the total at 129, proved to be a collapsing point for Union C.C. and they lost their remaining five wickets in the space of 26 runs only and were all out for 155.

Dawood was the main destroyer of Union's line-up and claimed 4 wickets in 5 overs, giving away 27 runs only. Riffat and Shehzad, bowled superb line and length, bagged 2 wickets each giving 22 and 30 runs respectively in their quota of 6 overs.

Mitchell set for fight

LEWISTON, Maine, Sept. 27, (Reuters): South African Brian Mitchell is set to defend his World Boxing Association (WBA) junior lightweight title against American Irving Mitchell tomorrow but the hottest action could be outside the arena.

Several Maine anti-apartheid groups are planning to protest against the fight — in the same building about three hours north of Boston where Mahatma Ali beat Sonny Liston 25 years ago — because of South Africa's racial segregation policies.

Even the WBA would rather have nothing to do with the white South Africa boxer.

Two weeks after Mitchell first won the title on Sept. 27, 1986, the WBA joined the World Boxing Council (WBC) in banning South African fighters from their ratings.

The WBA has prohibited Mitchell from boxing in his own country, forcing him to defend his title abroad eight times since knocking out Alfredo Layne three years ago.

This week's Maine chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, the "transferring" group, the Maine Project on South Africa and local students have called for a boycott and say they will demonstrate outside the arena.

Sjoeborg will have both feet plastered for at least three weeks followed by a 10-week period when only light training is allowed, said doctor Lars Persson, who performed the surgery.

Sjoeborg has long complained his tendon was preventing him from reaching his full capacity.

The world record of 2.2 metres he set in 1987, has now been raised twice by his main rival, Cuban Javier Sotomayor, and now stands at 2.45 metres.

Watters wins golf tourney

THE Hunting and Equestrian Golf Club held a 12-hole Stableford competition on Friday which attracted forty-six contestants who enjoyed unseasonably fine weather.

This event was won by school teacher Stephen Watters (9) who notched 27 points to edge out H.S. Shim (10) also with 27 points on a count back. In third place, J.H. Kim scored 26 points.

In side competition, Derek Hicks put his seven Iron Tea shot 1.2 metres from the hole to win nearest to the pin contest on the par three second hole, while K.H. Chung was able to out-drive all to win the longest drive contest on the par four sixth.

Tomorrow, the full 18-hole competition programme which is the September medal held in memory of captain Vijay Pierce, will start at the H & E Club.

Shabbir helps Starlite tame Gold Stars

SHABBIR's superb unbeaten knock of 80 runs helped Starlite start their 1989-90 season with a win over Gold Stars in a Kifco Trophy match played at the KCL ground on Friday.

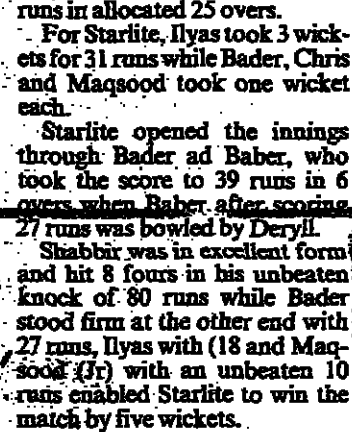
Starlite's skipper Iqbal Rizvi, after winning the toss, asked Gold Stars to bat who opened their innings through Tari and Salim. The openers took their score to 48 when Bader had Tari (15) caught behind the wicket by Shabbir.

Siraj joined Salim and took the score to 87 in 12 overs. At this stage Ilyas was introduced into the attack. He had Salim stumped by Shabbir after scoring 43 runs. Waheed (20) and Tari (24) helped Gold Star to score 188 runs in allocated 25 overs.

For Starlite, Ilyas took 3 wickets for 31 runs while Bader, Chris and Maqsood took one wicket each.

Starlite opened the innings through Bader and Baber, who took the score to 39 runs in 6 overs when Bader, after scoring 27 runs was bowled by Deryil.

Shabbir was in excellent form and hit 8 fours in his unbeaten knock of 80 runs while Bader stood firm at the other end with 27 runs, Ilyas with (18) and Maqsood (11) with an unbeaten 10 runs enabled Starlite to win the match by five wickets.



Shabbir: unbeaten 80

Sjoeborg out for 3 months

STOCKHOLM, Sept. 27, (Reuters): Swedish world high jump champion Patrik Sjoeborg has undergone Achilles tendon surgery and will be away from competition and full training for at least three months, his doctor said today.

Sjoeborg will have both feet plastered for at least three weeks followed by a 10-week period when only light training is allowed, said doctor Lars Persson, who performed the surgery.

Sjoeborg has long complained his tendon was preventing him from reaching his full capacity.

The world record of 2.2 metres he set in 1987, has now been raised twice by his main rival, Cuban Javier Sotomayor, and now stands at 2.45 metres.

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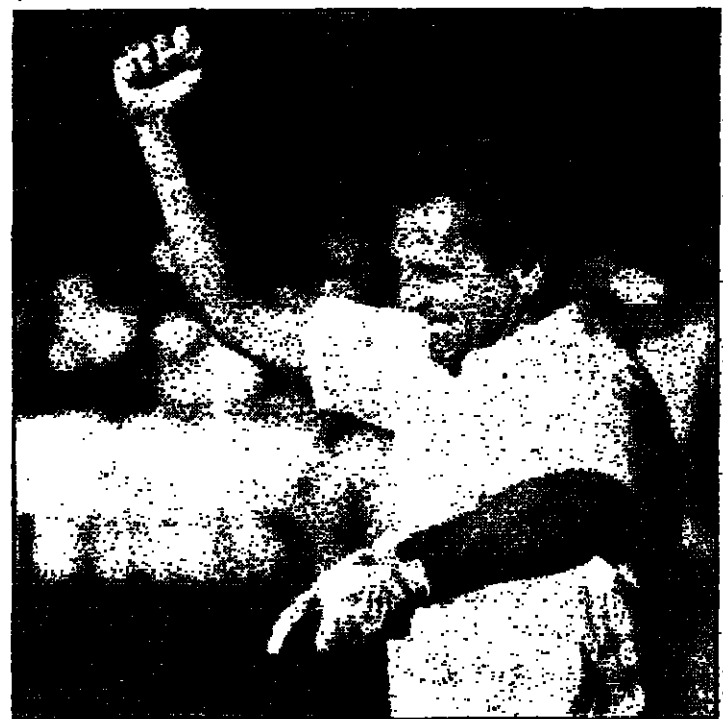
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Olazabal (left) and Canizares are two members of the Spanish team for the Dunhill Cup.



and Payne Stewart, who hit into water at the last hole to lose matches.

"It was not being critical, it was merely a statement of fact," Kite said yesterday. "You would not expect men like that to hit

into water."

"I play with those guys. They have not got where they have in golf doing that."

"But it was total misinterpretation to say I criticised them," he said.

did not win, you're disappointed."

Kite, who blitzed Briton Howard Clark 8 and 7 in his singles, denied he had meant to be critical of some of his teammates in remarks he made on

Sunday.

His statement that "with our calibre of players, you would expect us to get over the water at the last" was perceived by many observers as criticism of colleagues such as Calcavecchia

Their country have not won this \$1.3 million championship the four times it has been held, and whether they do so this time may depend on their recovery from Sunday's disappointment.

Kite conceded that the 14-14 draw was a letdown for the Americans, who had been intent on winning and who seemed likely to do so for most of the day.

"We had control of the match," he said. "We needed 7-1/2 points and at one time we had 10, far above what we needed."

"But we did not perform, and like any tournament when you felt you were in control and then

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NFL clears Solt's return to Eagles

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 27, (AP) — Guard Ron Solt will be permitted to return immediately to the Philadelphia Eagles, ending a four-week suspension by the National Football League for testing positive for steroids.

The Eagles said yesterday the NFL had cleared Solt to return to the active roster.

Coach Buddy Ryan said the club has received a one-week roster exemption for the former pro bowl guard, who was suspended Aug. 29. Solt will be allowed to practice with the team during that time, but no one would have to be cut from the roster to make room for him.

"I want him in here right away, getting in shape and getting ready to play some football," Ryan said. "Hopefully, he'll be able to play some for us this week."

"Ron is going to have to win back the right guard spot though. Ben Tumbarello has been doing the job in there that we knew he was capable of and I'm sure he's not going to want to step aside without putting up a fight."

Eagles president Harry Gamble said "if there is good to be found in Ron's suspension, I hope he has learned a lesson from this, and perhaps others have, too."

Peru score first win of tournament

CURITIBA, Brazil, Sept. 27, (AP) — Peru's men's team and Venezuela's women's team, both previously winless, scored their first victories yesterday in the South American Volleyball Championship.

Peru surprised Colombia, which had won its first two tournament matches, taking three straight games. Colombia was the favorite going into the match, but Peru played aggressively and dominated from start to finish, winning 15/4, 15/7 and 15/5.

The Venezuelans, who took third place in the 1987 championship, had been a disappointment in this year's tournament.

But the team played superbly against Uruguay, winning 15/6, 13/15, 15/5 and 15/4, in a match that lasted little over an hour.

Top athlete went 'from hero to zero in 9.79'

Seoul blunder still haunts Johnson

TORONTO, Sept. 27, (AP) — A year ago, hundreds of journalists waited impatiently for the world's fastest human to arrive for his post-race news conference at the Olympic Games.

Ben Johnson had just lowered his world record of 9.80 seconds to 9.79 in winning the 100-metre gold medal. And he had beaten his bitter rival, Carl Lewis, the defending Olympic champion — just like he had done a year earlier in setting the world record at the World Championships in Rome.

Olympic stadium came alive in Seoul, South Korea. Hundreds of Canadians in the stands yelled and screamed and cried. It was Canada's first gold medal of the Games.

"I did not expect to go this fast," Johnson said. "It was nice."

Lewis, who finished a distant second in 9.92, suggested Johnson was on steroids. He was accused of using grapes.

Then Johnson was late for his date with the news media. Officials explained, he apparently was having trouble producing a urine sample for drug tests.

In a small room in the stadium, Johnson drank 10 beers and waited almost two hours for his unco-operative, dehydrated system to provide the urine sample.

When Johnson finally met with the media, he said: "The gold medal is the most important thing. Anybody can break my world record, but the gold medal is mine."

It wasn't his for long.

Less than 36 hours later, there was trouble. Carol Anne Letheren, head of the Canadian team, received a letter from the International Olympic Committee saying that Johnson had tested positive for the banned steroid, stanozolol.

She and other Canadian officials met with a stunned Johnson and coach Charlie Francis at the Seoul Hilton. Johnson and Francis denied any wrongdoing.

Later that day, a second test of Johnson's urine was performed. The result again was positive. Meetings were held between Canadian and IOC officials, with the Canadians suggesting Johnson was the victim of sabotage.

But the IOC rejected the



Johnson (right) waves to the crowd after breaking the record in Seoul.

argument, pointing out the test results indicated a pattern of long-term steroid use. Early on Sept. 27, at another meeting in the hotel, Johnson's gold medal was taken back — the medal he had dedicated to "my mom and all the people of Canada."

At a news conference a few hours later, Letheren said Johnson was in a state of shock. "He was not comprehending the information we were giving him," she said.

As Letheren spoke, Johnson was already on his way home. He and his entourage checked out of their hotel in the middle of the night, leaving behind a messy room of forgotten luggage, flowers and congratulatory messages.

By the time reporters caught up with him at Seoul's Gimpo Airport, he was surrounded by a phalanx of police who were charged with escorting him to his New York-bound plane.

Johnson was soon gone from

the Olympics, but after shocks rocked Seoul for days.

The Korean Herald, one of the country's two English-language newspapers, came out with a two-page extra edition. The screaming headline said it all: "Ben Johnson stripped of gold for dope; medal goes to Lewis."

A banner hanging from one balcony in the athletes' village read: "From hero to zero in 9.79." Johnson jokes quickly made the rounds, most of them questioning the man's intelligence.

In the past year, the shy, Jamaican-born sprinter has been through an emotional upheaval sparked by what may well be remembered as the biggest drug scandal in amateur sports.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation, the world governing body of track and field, dealt Johnson another crushing blow Sept. 5 when it vowed to strip him of his 1987 world record.



Ben Johnson being escorted by his sister as he leaves Seoul in disgrace.

Despite the best efforts of those around him, Johnson has been unable to run away from the notoriety that has haunted him since Seoul.

When he resumed training last November at Toronto's York University, he had a minor run-in with a photographer.

In May, there was a charge against a man who was involved in an altercation with Johnson outside a trendy Toronto Bistro. The incident left Johnson with a broken tooth and swollen jaw and his mother's car with a smashed windshield.

Then one month ago, Johnson was given a conditional discharge and placed on probation for one year after pleading guilty to assault. That charge resulted from an incident in which Johnson pointed a starter's pistol at another motorist on a Toronto highway two weeks after he returned from Seoul.

"A certain degree of compassion must go to Mr. Johnson,"

Judge Ian MacDonnell said in handing down the sentence.

During testimony at a federal inquiry into drug use in amateur sports — an investigation spawned by his positive test at Seoul — Johnson cited a Jamaican proverb when asked about his life now.

"If I've lost friends now, they were friends I didn't need," he said. "In Jamaica, we say there are two types of friends — the ones who help you plant trees and the ones who just come to sit under them."

Those closest to him are hurdler Mark McKoy and sprinter Desai Williams. In August, a tuxedo-clad Johnson served as an usher at Williams' wedding.

Except for two television interviews in Europe — for which Johnson was paid — the sprinter has heeded the advice of his lawyer and justice Charles Dubin, head of the federal inquiry, and not spoken on the record to the news media.

Johnson is, however, taking his anti-drug crusade to the public. Sunday, exactly one year after his race at Seoul, he, McKoy and Williams were part of a police anti-drug campaign at a Toronto shopping mall.

"A friend of mine who is a lawyer asked me if I was interested and I said it sounded like a good idea," McKoy said. "And they asked if Ben might be interested and he was."

McKoy, who testified at the inquiry that he used banned steroids briefly in 1987, conceded there were some people who questioned the sincerity of the trio.

"Some people will, some people won't," said McKoy. Canada's top high hurdler for a decade. "The people who want us to come back will believe in us."

McKoy was suspended in January by the Canadian Track and Field Association for two years because he left Seoul without running on the relay team.

These days, the trio work out most mornings on stationary bikes and in the weight room at a Toronto fitness club.

Johnson has no coach to replace Francis, who is under suspension by the Canadian Track and Field Association, with pay. Last fall, when Johnson worked out at the track at York University, Percy Duncan, a sprinter who was a contemporary of Jesse Owens and is 72 years old, offered Johnson some guidance.

Johnson looks trim and fit and his physical appearance has changed little since Seoul. He maintains 175 pounds (79 kilograms) on his 5-foot-9 frame and is still capable of bench-pressing 420 pounds (190 kilograms) and squat-lifting 660 pounds (299 kilograms).

In the months after Seoul, three youngsters sent Johnson gold medals they had won. His oldest sister, Dezzine, answers fan letters and Johnson has signed more than 2,000 posters to mail to children who have written him.

"I want to tell them to be honest," Johnson says. "Don't take drugs. It happened to me. I've been there. I know what it's like to cheat."

Judge raps Celtics for luring top Yugoslav

BOSTON, Sept. 27, (UPI) — A federal judge ruled yesterday that Yugoslavian star Dino Radja is contractually bound to his former team and scolded the Boston Celtics for their lack of "sportsmanship" in luring the 6-foot-10 (2.07 m) forward.

Judge Douglas Woodlock ruled that Radja's contract with Jugoplastika is valid and granted the Yugoslavian team a temporary injunction to prevent Radja from playing or practicing with the Celtics.

Imposition of the injunction was suspended until 5 pm Oct. 5, the day before the Celtics' training camp opens, giving the Boston team time to appeal, a move it is considering.

Radja said that regardless of any final ruling, he will not return to Yugoslavia "and I won't change my mind." The court decision solidifies Jugoplastika's bargaining position if they wish to sell the rights to Radja's services.

Celtics general manager Jan Volk said as he left the courtroom, "From everything I had been told, this (contract) is not enforceable in Yugoslavia." After listening to Woodlock's detailed reasons for his decision, Volk said, "only a fool would adopt an air of confidence after this."

Woodlock, citing the interests of the common good, castigated the Celtics for their actions, saying the team did not follow the precepts of sports.

"Sports have a way of teaching us their important lessons: the way in which people conduct themselves. The way in which youngsters view what is appropriate and what isn't appropriate is shaped to a large degree by the concept of sportsmanship," the judge said.

He said the Celtics' actions were contrary to basic standards of fair play.

The ability to be the highest bidder (and) to reach into a stocked pond and poach from it is not a lesson that seems to be in the public interest," stated Woodlock. "People make agreements, those are promises — promises should be enforced."

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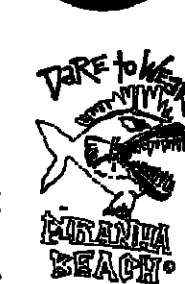
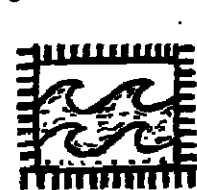
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SPORTS

Capriati to play professional tournament at 13

NEW YORK, Sept. 27, (Reuters): Teenage sensation Jennifer Capriati can play in her first professional tournament before her 14th birthday under a rules change, the Women's International Professional Tennis Council said yesterday.

Capriati, winner of the junior French and US Opens, had been expected to make her professional debut at the Italian Open, but under a modification of WITC rules adopted on September 1 she will now be able to play first in her home state of Florida.

She was expected to ask for a wild card entry in March into the \$300,000 Florida Women's Championships and the International Players Championships in the same state, said John Evert of Mark McCormack's International Management Group which is advising the Capriati family.

They made the decision to let Jennifer start her pro career in her own backyard, where she is familiar with the surroundings, instead of in Europe, said Evert, the brother of retired star Chris Evert. However, WITC managing director

Jane Brown denied that Capriati had been given special dispensation to turn professional before her 14th birthday, explaining that from the start of the 1990 season anyone will be able to play in tournaments in the month in which they turn 14.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Amateur boxing

MOSCOW, Sept. 27, (AP): A total of 11 Soviet fighters advanced to the semifinals of the World Amateur Boxing Championships after bouts yesterday. Cuban boxers won their other two bouts and now have seven semi-finalists. Semi-finalists are assured of bronze medals.

Doping tests

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept. 27, (Kuna): Five athletes — four male and one female — who failed doping tests in the recent 15th SEA Games are from Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand. Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM) president Hamzah Abu Samah, said here today. He, however, refused to divulge the names of all the five.

Climbers disappear

KATHMANDU, Nepal, Sept. 27, (AP): Two South Koreans disappeared on their way down from the summit after conquering the 7,939-metre (26,040-foot) Mount Annapurna II. Nepal's Ministry of Tourism said today.

Australians win

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept. 27, (Kuna): The Australian pair Rod Dunkerton and Steve McKimmie powered their way to victory in the four-day 1,400 km 13th Rally of Malaysia which ended here yesterday.

Monteiro Trophy

THE Monteiro Hockey Trophy will be played on a league cup knock-out basis and games scheduled for tomorrow are as follows: 4 pm Unity vs Starworld, 4 pm Kwt. Ind. (Black) vs Pak XI. Teams should be present 15 minutes before bully off time.

Yacht race

PUNTA DEL ESTE, Uruguay, Sept. 27, (AP): The New Zealand yacht Steinelager 2nd reported well ahead of its nearest competitors yesterday and nearing the end of the first leg of the 33,000-mile (53,000-kilometre) fifth Whitbread Round-The-World race.

Club challenge

NEW YORK, Sept. 27, (AP): Teams from 14 countries popped champagne bottles in New York yesterday to launch this year's International Yacht Club challenge, which begins Friday in New York harbour.

GP driver

BONN, Sept. 27, (UPI): Confusion persisted around West German Formula One Grand Prix driver Christian Danner, who was reported sacked by Rial team, but maintains he does not know anything about the dismissal.

Portuguese star

LONDON, Sept. 27, (UPI): Portuguese soccer star Jorge Roçadas has joined his former manager Malcolm Allison at English Non-League amateur club Fisher Athletic.

Players defect

BERLIN, Sept. 27, (UPI): The captain of an East German soccer club and one of his teammates have defected to the West following a game in West Berlin.

Nunez detained

QUITO, Sept. 27, (UPI): Paraguayan soccer international Jorge Armando Nunez has been detained by Ecuadorian police for obscene behaviour after being sent off during last Wednesday's World Cup South American Group Two qualifying match.

Amateur laws

LONDON, Sept. 27, (UPI): English Rugby Football Union secretary Dudley Wood admitted Monday that the game's governing body had broken its own amateur laws over the controversial World XV tour to South Africa last month.

Mansell blames Senna for GP collision

ROME, Sept. 27, (Reuters): Nigel Mansell today angrily rejected claims by Ayrton Senna that he caused their crash at the Portuguese Grand Prix and accused the Brazilian of deliberately cutting in front of him.

The Briton, banned by the International Motor Sports Federation (Fisa) from next Sunday's Spanish Grand Prix for failing to obey black disqualification flags, was accused of "suicide driving" by Senna.

Fisa said today Mansell's ban would almost certainly stand despite an appeal by his team Ferrari.

Mansell, who was also fined \$50,000 for failing to obey the flags, told the Rome newspaper La Repubblica: "Senna...cut me. He saw perfectly well I was starting to overtake, he even turned his head slightly towards me."

Yesterday Senna said in a newspaper interview that Mansell deserved severe punishment for charging past him in a bid to take the racing line for a corner on the 48th lap.

The crash, which sent both

Chang outlasts Reneberg

Gilbert beats Matuszewski

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 27, (UPI): No. 2 seed and defending champion Michael Chang, 17, defeated Richey Reneberg 7-6 (8-6) 6-4 last night in a first round match of the \$425,000 Volvo Tennis-San Francisco Tournament.

Third-seeded Brad Gilbert dispatched Richard Matuszewski 6-2, 6-4 in an earlier match.

Top-seeded John McEnroe, forced to withdraw from the tournament after experiencing pain in his knee from an injury suffered in a tournament in August, officials said.

Chang, ranked 5th in the world, was tied at 6-all with the 75th-ranked Reneberg, 23, but forced Reneberg to hit a backhand into the alley in the tiebreaker, and then a forehand shot into the net for the set point.

Reneberg lost his serve in the ninth game of the second set before the teenager served out the match at love.

"It was a pretty tight match — just a few points made a difference in the tie-breaker," Chang said. "He made two drop volleys and then I came up with great passing shot."

In the tie-breaker, Chang was up 4-1 but Reneberg closed to 5-all on a forehand volley. On the 11th point, Reneberg hit a forehand smasher to go ahead 6-5. Chang served the next two points and took the lead at 7-6.



Chang: stretched to the limit

Reneberg then hit the forehand shot into the net.

It was their third meeting this year, all won by Chang.

"Richey is a good, all-round player and has a wide variety of shots," Chang said.

Sixth-ranked Gilbert, in the first set, broke at 3-2 and 5-2 in

the first set of the 1 hour, 4-minute match.

In the second set Gilbert, with a 5-4 lead, broke Matuszewski's serve for the only time in the set to win the match. Matuszewski, ranked 53rd, won only two points in the last game.

"I started out really slow but served really well," Gilbert said. "It's not easy to make an adjustment from playing outside and coming indoors," he said, referring to a tournament last week in Los Angeles.

"It's tough adjustment but I'm satisfied with the way I've been hitting the ball. I've been doing a lot of sprint work and I think I'm in better shape now at 28 than when I was 23."

"When I was 23, I was making a lot of money but I didn't work as hard. Now the game is so difficult you've got to keep it at a high level."

Tournament director Barry MacKay said McEnroe withdrew after suffering pain in a knee while practising Sunday. The knee was injured at the ATP Championships in Indianapolis in August.

"Believe me, if John were healthy, he would be competing here," MacKay said. "He has always had tremendous success here."

Unseeded Lief Shiras took advantage of John Fitzgerald's inconsistent serve and groundstrokes to upset the seventh seed 3-6, 6-3, 6-1 yesterday in the opening round.

Fifth seeded Kevin Curren of South Africa outlasted Tim Wilkison 6-4, 7-6 (7-5).

In other afternoon matches, Scott Davis topped David Wheaton 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, and South Africa's Pieter Aldrich dumped

qualifier Robbie Weiss 3-6, 6-6, 6-1.

Fitzgerald, of Australia, never found his groove in his match. He managed to win the first set despite three double faults. In the second set, Fitzgerald went up 3-1 before collapsing and losing 6-3. In the final set, Shiras' unleashed a bullet serve to complete the upset 6-1.

Curren, ranked 24th, was down 3-love to Wilkison, ranked 103rd and a wild card competitor, in the second set but came back to tie it 3-3 and force a tie breaker.

"He's like a tiger," Curren said of Wilkison. "He's in the cage and ready to build up. But I kept my cool. I was really hitting the ball well after (falling behind) and kept match toughness."

Curren said he was using ice to minimise a fluid problem in his left knee.

Davis, a former collegiate star at nearby Stanford, regained his composure after losing the opening set to defeat Wheaton. In the third set, Davis went up 5-4 and then finished out of the match with a forehand smash-off a service return.

"He came out pretty strong," Davis said. "I double-faulted twice in the opening set before I finally started feeling comfortable. He was really getting some big serves in, but I started pinning him back (on the baseline) with my backhand."



Ivan Lendl: fought back for victory

Lendl struggles past Novacek

BORDEAUX, France, Sept. 27, (Reuters): Top seed Ivan Lendl scraped through the first round of the Bordeaux Tennis Grand Prix yesterday with a painfully drawn-out 7-6 (7-2) 6-7 (5-7) 6-1 win over Czech compatriot Karel Novacek.

The US Open runner-up, looking off-form and ill at ease on clay, battled for two sets to find a weak spot in Novacek's baseline game.

"Obviously, so soon after the US Open, I'm not yet used to clay, although I hope to play better than last week in Barcelona," commented Lendl, who was knocked out of the Spanish Open by 12th-seeded Andres Gomez of Ecuador.

Although committing numerous unforced errors, Lendl fought back from 3-5 down in the first set to go on to win the tie-break 7-2.

The second set was another fierce tussle, with both players holding their serves for a second tie-break which went 5-7 to Novacek.

However Lendl regained his form to win the final set 6-1 and qualify for the second round of the \$253,000 tournament against Lawson Duncan of the United States.

Eighth-seeded Frenchman Henri Leconte, apparently fully recovered from a back operation earlier in the year, had an easy 6-2 6-2 win over compatriot Arnaud Boetsch and could end up meeting Lendl in the quarterfinals.

"It was the first match in a long time where I've felt my game to be this constant and concentrated from start to finish. My long-term objective is to be back among the ten top world players," said Leconte, who meets American Jimmy Brown in the second round.

Monaco qualify for 2nd round

MONACO, Sept. 27, (UPI): Liberian striker Georges Weah scored two goals and set up a third in a first half onslaught that led Monaco to a 3-0 victory over Belenenses, Portugal yesterday to qualify for the second round of the European Cup Winners' Cup.

Monaco advanced on an aggregate score of 4-1.

Weah sparked a stunning offensive show from Monaco, with three goals in a furious 10-minute period.

Belenenses, lacking three of its starters, was unable to mount any significant attack in the match before 8,433 fans at Louis II stadium in Monaco.

Monaco controlled the ball from the start, with Argentine Ramon Diaz narrowly missing two scoring opportunities in the first 15 minutes. The striker had a

header go several centimetres wide of the goal, then had a 20-metre rocket deflected on a diving effort from Belenenses goalie Borislav Mikhailov.

Weah scored the first goal in the 31st minute, after Diaz found him in the penalty area and lobbed the ball over two Belenenses defenders who, apparently believing Weah was offside, left him free to beat Mikhailov.

Weah scored the 35th minute after taking control of a ball bouncing free near the penalty line and breaking free in front of the goal.

And Weah set up the third score after he out-muscled a Belenenses defender for the ball near the end line and passed to midfielder Fabrice Mege, who dived to head the ball past Mikhailov.

With Monaco firmly ahead,

the pace slowed in the second half, with neither club mounting a serious threat.

Results

Dinamo Bucharest (Romania) 2 Dinamo Tirana (Albania) 0 (half-time 2-0).

Hanrun Spartans (Malta) 0 Real Valladolid (Spain) 1 (0-1) Valladolid won 6-0 on aggregate.

Monaco (France) 3 Belenenses (Portugal) 0 (3-0) Monaco won 4-1 on aggregate.

Grasshopper Zurich (Switzerland) 4 Slovan Bratislava (Czechoslovakia) 0 after extra time (90 minutes 3-0, half-time 1-0). Grasshopper won 4-3 on aggregate.

Jeunesse Esch (Luxembourg) 0 Sochaux (France) 5 (0-4) Sochaux won 12-0 on aggregate.

Antwerp (Belgium) 4 Vitosha Sofia (Bulgaria) 3 (0-1) Antwerp won 4-3 on aggregate.

Videoton (Hungary) 0 Hibernian (Scotland) 3 (0-1) Hibernian won 4-0 on aggregate.

Real Zaragoza (Spain) 1 Apollon Limassol (Cyprus) 1 (0-1) Zaragoza won 4-1 on aggregate.

Fenerbahce (Turkey) 1 Sparta Prague (Czechoslovakia) 2 (half-time 0-1) Sparta Prague won 5-1 on aggregate.

AEL Limassol (Cyprus) 1 Admira Wacker (Austria) 0 (1-0). Admira Wacker won 3-1 on aggregate.

Flacra Moreni (Romania) 1 FC Porto (Portugal) 2 (0-1). Porto won 4-1 on aggregate.

Victoria Bucharest (Romania) 1 Valencia (Spain) 1 (0-1). Valencia won 4-2 on aggregate.

Napoli (Italy) 0 Sporting Lisbon (Portugal) 0 (after extra time) Napoli won on penalty shoot-out, 4-3.

Sampdoria (Italy) 1 Brann (Norway) 0 (0-0). Sampdoria won 3-0 on aggregate.

Stage set for KIFF championship

THE Kuwait Indian Football Federation has organised the KIFF Super League Championship '89-90, which starts tomorrow at the Sour grounds.

Two games will be played each Friday at the Sour grounds with the first starting at 6.30 am and the second at 8.15 am.

The following teams have topped the list to qualify to contest the prestigious championship:

- Salceate United Sports Centre
- Starlite Goans
- Goa Cultural Association
- Incredible Sports Club

announced that Players' Registration Forms are now ready and must be collected by the secretaries of all clubs affiliated to KIFF from the hon. sports secretary Justino Viegas, on Friday, Sept. 29, preferably on Sour grounds. Last date for registration of players is Oct. 20.

RESULTS of Regency Ladies Bridge Club game played yesterday morning

- Nida Khalaf & Suhendan Oskay
 - Nabil Akel & Lollo Murthwaite
 - Dona Materny & Clara Bastiere
- The Messiah Ladies Bridge Club will start a new bridge game every Saturday, starting on Sept. 30 at 9.00 am.

Player stabbed to death

SILVER SPRING, Maryland, Sept. 27, (UPI): Honduran Dennis Ponce, a soccer player for the Washington Diplomats, was stabbed to death during a fight that may have started over a woman or the civil war in El Salvador, police said yesterday.

Ponce, 22, was stabbed repeatedly during a fight in an apartment Monday night, said Sgt. Harry Gehreng, a spokesman for Montgomery County police.

Ponce, for two seasons the starting left fullback on the Diplomats of the American Soccer League, died at Washington Adventist Hospital at 10.55 pm.

Arrested and charged with murder was Oscar Villatoro

Berrios, 22, of Silver Spring, Virginia, who lived in Arlington, came to the United States from Honduras two years ago to play soccer, said Julio Pinon, president of the Washington Diplomats.

"It's a very big loss for everybody, for our players, for our fans," said Pinon. "He was a hard worker, a nice guy."

Gehreng said a police investigation continued yesterday.

Witnesses have said they were arguing over the war in El Salvador," said Gehreng.

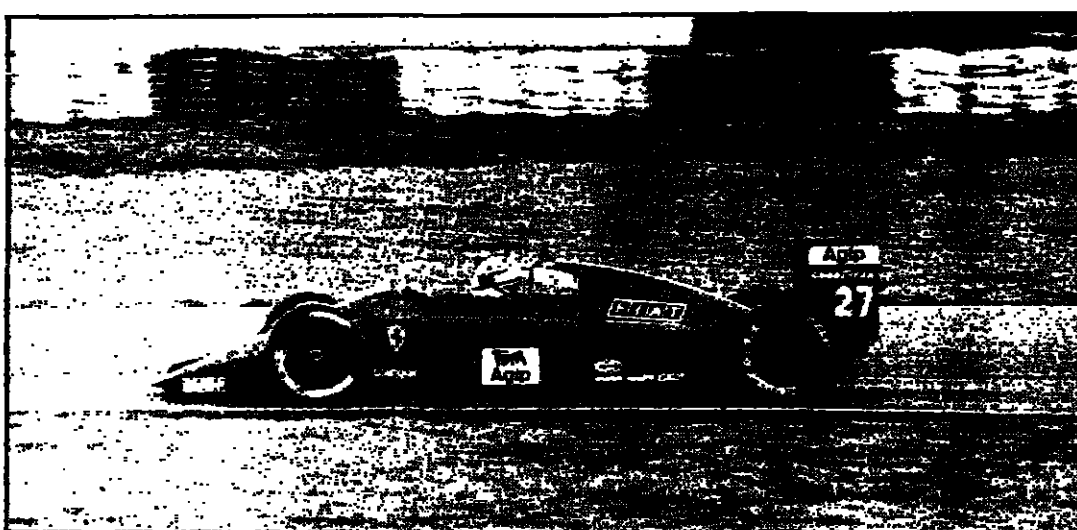
Witnesses told police Ponce had a knife when the fight began, and Villatoro then got a butcher knife from the apartment kitchen. Villatoro was not injured.

British soccer results

LONDON, Sept. 27, (Reuters): Results of British soccer matches played yesterday:

English Division Two		English Division Four	
Barnsley	2	Wolves	2
Bournemouth	2	Port Vale	0
Sheff Wed	2	West Ham	1
Sheff Utd	2	Oldham	1
Stoke	1	Bradford	1
Swindon	3	Plymouth	0
English Division Three		English Division Four	
Birmingham	2	Walsell	0
Bristol City	2	Shrewsbury	1
Bury	2	Rotherham	1
Cardiff	2	Northampton	3

Crew	2	Barnsford	3
Fulham	0	Huddersfield	0
Leyton O	0	Bristol R	1
Notts County	2	Bolton	1
Preston	2	Blackpool	1
Reading	1	Chester	1
Wigan	1	Tranmere	3



Mansell: fined \$50,000 for failing to obey the flags

cars spinning into sand traps, left both drivers uninjured but out of the race. However, Senna's title hopes were effectively ended.

Mansell said he had not seen the black flags, shown to him shortly before the crash, on three successive laps of the Estoril circuit for illegally reversing in the

pit. "Have you ever been on that part of the circuit at that time? The sun was in my eyes. I couldn't see a thing," he said.

"It's incredible that they decided (to ban me) without hearing my side of the argument... I've been racing for years and I

don't remember any similar banning, especially so hurried and summary. But that's not the end of it," he said.

But a spokeswoman for the Paris-based Fisa said today the Formula One world championship sports code did not allow a sanction to be suspended pending

an appeal.

She said the only hope of lifting the ban lay in a meeting of Fisa's board of appeal being held before Sunday's race.

"But it is very unlikely. Most members of the board live abroad and it is almost impossible for them to be in Paris before Sunday," she added.

Asked why he reversed into the Ferrari box in the pitlane, Mansell replied he was perfectly aware the move was an illegal one.

"But there are times...when instinct beats reason, especially if you take account of what was happening in the box when I drove in."

"There were lots more people in the box than there is normally...I drove in really fast. I had to swerve twice so as not to run anyone down. I saw confusion around me and I put the car in reverse."

"At such times, I repeat, you don't think about rules," he said.

The race was eventually won by Mansell's Ferrari team-mate, Austrian driver Gerhard Berger.



Happy runners-up

Tareq Al Ayian and Khoulood Al Ayian raise their arms in joy after finishing second in the opening round of Kuwait National Rally Championships last Friday.

The couple, in a Daihatsu Rocky, were sponsored by Mild Seven Lights.

Moorcroft retires

LONDON, Sept. 27, (Reuters): David Moorcroft, Britain's former world 5,000 metres record holder, has decided to quit track athletics to concentrate on road racing.

Moorcroft, 36, reached his running peak in 1982 when he reduced the world 5,000 metres record by almost six seconds and won the Commonwealth title and European bronze over the same distance.

"I can't go on fooling myself that I can compete on the track with the highest company," Moorcroft said.

"My good runs have become more and more isolated and one of the biggest regrets of my career has been that I could not give enough time to road racing."

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